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## THE INDEPENDENT



ONESDAY REVIEW+ FASHION

Richard & Judy answer your questions PAGE 8



'A girl of

## Dobson refuses to close secure hospital taken over by inmates

top-security mental hospital to COLIN BROWN AND control some of Britain's most IAN BURRELL dangerous criminals was revealed in a report yesterday which described how it became an outpost of the pornography

Ashworth Hospital on Merseyside, which houses 456 mentally disordered patients including the Moors murderer Ian Brady, became a centre for the copying and distribution of hardcore porn in which an

- How the patients took over page 6
- Shameful' history of problems at special hospitals
- page 6 Leading article Review, page 3

eight-year-old girl was being groomed for paedophile purposes", according to an inquiry.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, painted a chilling picture of an asylum taken over by its immates which left MPs shocked and dismayed. He described it as a were secretive, out of touch and decision, mismanagement and incompetence". But he rejected the key recommendation in the 600-page report of the public inquiry team under a judge, Peter Fallon QC, to close down Ashworth, and by implication its sister hospitals. Broadmoor and Rampton, "at the earliest and mortar" but of manage-

opportunity". It emerged, however, that Ashworth could be broken into smaller segregated units. The inquiry report, which included 55 recommendations, is also likely to lead to sweeping changes in the law, including

new powers to allow the Secretary of State to sack NHS staff, and tougher controls over patients with personality dis-

The nine-month £7.5m inquiry - triggered by allegations from Stephen Daggett, a convicted child abuser who absconded from the hospital in 1996 - found pornography was widely available", security was farcical" and the whole unit 'deeply flawed". The inquiry blamed the hospital's managers for being "secretive, out of touch and totally unable to control this large institution". The institution was dominated by "clever and manipulative"

Mr Fallon - who said the whole system was "rotten" concluded: "The hospital's negative, defensive and blame-ridden culture is so deeply ingrained that we doubt even the most talented management team could turn it around. Ashworth Hospital should close at the earliest opportunity."

He said: "The management culture of the hospital was dysfunctional. Senior managers chameful story of confusion, in- totally unable to control this large institution. We therefore have no confidence in the ability of Ashworth Hospital to flourish under any management. It should close."

But Mr Dobson told the Commons that the institution's problems were not those of "bricks ment and gave the hospital four

months to turn itself round. The first heads to roll yesterday were Paul Lever, chairman of the Ashworth Hospital Authority, and Anne Marie Nelson, former chairman of the



Peter Fallon whose recommendations for the closure of Ashworth hospital were rejected by Frank Dobson

thority and chairman of the missioning Board. Twenty three members of staff named face professional disciplinary action. A former admiral in the Royal Navy, Ian Pirnie, chairman of the Morecambe Bay health authority, was appoint-Special Hospitals Service Au- ed to take over the authority.

The most disturbing part of High Security Services Com- Mr Fallon's report described how an eight-year-old girl was smuggled into the hospital for in the report could be sacked or more than six years "weekend, after weekend" by her own father, who is now prevented by a court order from contact with her. "The child at the centre of

paedophile purposes. This is a and a high-security hospital at

that," said the report. Yesterday the Government secured a court order to protect the girl's anonymity. Mr Dobson told MPs: "I have checked. the paedophile allegations was. She seems to be doing pretty in our view, being groomed for well. She is living a settled life."

disgraceful situation in what and pornographic videos were was supposed to be a hospital. freely available: the father of the girl brought pornographic videos into the hospital; several patients had credit cards and were able to borrow large sums of money; and a machine

for embossing share certifi-

cates was uncovered - leading

to another inquiry which un-

Peter Macdiarmid

The report found that drugs covered "scams and moneymaking ventures in the personality disorder unit".

Members of the inquiry team were clearly disappointed with Mr Dobson's refusal to close Ashworth. They have recommended that patients with personality disorders are treated in smaller separate units away from other mentally ill people

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eight was being groomed for paedophile purposes. **Pornography** was widely available; patients ran their own businesses; and security was farcical. Ashworth Hospital should close at the earliest opportunity'

chairman of the inquiry

and have advocated wide-scale reform of what they called a "rotten" system.

Asked how he felt about Mr Dobson's decision, Mr Fallon would only say: "Frankly, we disagree ... If Ashworth and other special hospitals continue to be structured and run as they currently are we envisage the problems will return."

NO LINE CHANGE

## FO asked hostages to report on Chechnya

THE FOUR engineers mur- By ANDREW BUMCOMBE dered in Chechnya had been asked by the Foreign Office to report back with sensitive information about "movers and shakers" in the rebellious breakaway republic.

Despite publicly claiming it had strongly advised the men's employees not to go to Chechnya, correspondence obtained by The Independent shows officials were keen to use the company to supply information on investment and politics.

charges for the bungled inves-

tigation into the murder of

Stephen Lawrence, it was

announced yesterday.

In a Commons statement last December, Forelign Office minister Tony Lloyd said the advice to the employees, Granger Telecom and British Telecom, had been "unambiguous".

to Granger two months earlier, a Foreign Office official wrote: "As one of the very small number of British companies involved in Chechnya and having first-hand knowledge of Grozny he one of the very seell momber of Britis, componied in., in Checkuny, and having iterational handsdops of Grouny, we would again your views on the notestial for interpational investment, for Checkung. We would welcome Iffermation in the state of the control of

Last year's Foreign Office letter to Granger Telecom

(the capital) we would wel- Chechens they considered income your views on the poten-fluential. They also "finally" tial for investment in sought information on Jon Chechnya." It also requested in- James and Camilla Carr, two

formation on contacts and British kidnapped charity work-

Metropolitan Police, which

Kent found a succession of

blunders and incompetence.

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ers, eventually released in Sep-tember. The Foreign Office last night said it was only trying to secure the release of the charity workers. It refused to comment on whether any information obtained would be passed

to the intelligence services. Petschi, Stanley Shaw, Darren Hickey and Peter Kennedy, were kidnapped in Grozny in October last year. Their bodies were found in December, apparently after being forced to

confess to spying. Last night op-position MPs demanded a full explanation. Shadow Foreign minister Cheryl Gillan said: "Tony Lloyd spoke about the advice to the company being unambiguous. It is clear that it was not unambiguous. The use The four engineers, Rudolf of the words 'formal advice' implies the FO was saying 'don't go, but since you are there tell us what you can'." A Granger spokesman insisted the men had not been acting as spies.

SINGAPORE AUSTRALIA THAILAND CHINA AUSTRIA SOUTH AFRICA EGYPT NEW ZEALAND BARBADOS 'Name Chechens', page 4 15p FALKLAND ISLES CHILE AGE AMBES ARE DECEMBATE LE MATIANTS CATE MASSA PAR ELLA NIPPA APPLA AND DAME EMBRETA

NATIONAL RATES

#### Lawrence fury as police escape charges ity (PCA) yesterday, which condamning report by Kent Police is Detective Inspector Ben Bulinto the initial investigation by lock, who was second-in-command of the inquiry team. Scotland Yard of the stabbing to In May last year the

Four other senior Metropolitan Police officers who carried He is expected to be the only out the original inquiry into the person to face a serious disciplinary punishment for the enkilling of the 18-year-old black tire Lawrence débacle. student would have faced similar charges, but they have all

ONLY ONE police officer is to By JASON BENNETTO face serious disciplinary Crime Correspondent

made in a report published by gation is astonishing."

The serving officer, who

faces a disciplinary tribunal

cluded that there was no evidence to prove that any officer "consciously discrimiinto seven charges of neglect of nated" against Stephen's duty, is due to retire this year, parents, Doreen and Neville

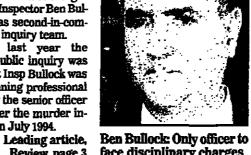
during

investigation. They reacted with anger and said: "The finding that there The announcement was was no racism in the investi-

Lawrence,

death of Stephen by a white gang near a bus stop in Eltham, Lawrence public inquiry was told that Det Insp Bullock was south-east London, in April given a damning professional 1993. It also examined the subsequent internal inquiry by the

appraisal by the senior officer who took over the murder investigation in July 1994. cleared their colleagues' work



Review, page 3 face disciplinary charges

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ABROAD

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Ken Livingstone Lib Dems will not work

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A nice night out Martin Yesterday, Brad Fraser's new play about an openly gay politician Theatre P11

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#### Freetown relieved

Gordon Brown has told Home P2

The national game could be torn apart, court told

Iraqi clashes US says pilots can fire befo<u>re</u> being targeted. Foreign P11

Evidence of downturn Anne McElvoy Allied Domecq, the spirits and pubs group, issues a profits warning Business P14

Michael Jordan exits The greatest basketball player ever is to retire Sport P20

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The dangerous situation in the Yemen and how the Tories aren't helping Comment P3

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Midweek Money P12

'I know that whatever happens to me is related to my children's deaths. I have abandoned the idea that one day I will recover'

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GENEVIEVE JURGENSEN, AUTHOR OF 'THE DISAPPEARANCE'

VIRGINIA **IRONSIDE'S** DILEMMAS **EPLUS** FILM, LAW EDUCATION & FAST TRACK

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER

Brown spells out plans to join euro

GORDON BROWN has spelt out BY ANDREW GRICE to the European Commission AND DIANE COYLE his plans to bring the British economy into line with the rest of Europe as a prelude to joining the single currency.

In an unpublished report, which has been submitted quietly to the Commission and obtained by The Independent. the Chancellor details the measures the Government is taking to prepare the UK for entry.

Ministers said last night that Mr Brown's "convergence programme" was aimed at allowing Tony Blair to call a referendum on joining the euro shortly after the next general election if Labour retains power. If an election were held in 2001, Britain could join by January 2002, when euro notes and coins start circulating.

However, cabinet sources said there was "an outside chance" of a referendum before the election after the euro's successful launch last week. "If the business community pushes hard, then the momentum may become unstoppable," one senior minister said.

John Redwood, the shadow industry secretary, said: "This document is part of the softening up process, designed to create the impression that joining the euro is inevitable. We think that is rubbish."

Mr Brown's document said the Government was pursuing a strategy "for achieving the stability and convergence" required for Britain to join. The traditional differences between the British economy and those of its EU partners "are becoming less distinct over time",

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"should improve the flexibility of the economy... helping to ensure that the UK could maximise the benefits of the single currency".

The Chancellor told the Commission that "to ensure that membership is a genuine option, both public and private sectors are beginning to prepare for the single currency".

The document emphasised the importance of a stable exchange rate for the pound. "The Government is confident that the new arrangements provide the best platform to deliver greater stability in the sterling-euro exchange rate," it said. "Over time, it will allow the UK economic and interest rate cycle to move closer to that of the single currency area."

The fact that UK interest rates, at 6 per cent. are double those in the euro area is explained as a legacy of past volatility in the British econo-

The Maastricht Treaty requires sterling to rejoin the exchange rate mechanism, from which it was forced out in 1992, although a period of sta bility would probably be acceptable to other EU members.

Mr Brown told the Commission he was due to present a National Changeover Plan outlining the steps necessary for Britain to join the euro "early in the New Year". However, its publication is likely to be delayed until next month, because of the resignation of Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, The Government's policies who was helping to draw it up.



Fifty villagers from Lymouth, Devon, yesterday re-enacting the events of 100 years ago when their ancestors manhandled a lifeboat 14 miles overland, to save the crew of the sailing ship 'Forrest Hall' foundering in heavy seas in Portlock Bay

Tim Cuff

#### Mandelson 'wanted to oust Brown as Chancellor' tanker disaster

THE GOVERNMENT'S wounds over Peter Mandelson's resignation will be torn open by claims in a new book that he planned to replace Gordon Brown as Chancellor as a stepping stone to Number Ten.

A book on Mr Mandelson, called "Mandy: The Unauthorised Biography", by Paul Routledge, a former political correspondent of the Independent on Sunday, claims that Mr Mandelson last autumn "shifted gear" in his "long term game plan" to set his sights on

becoming Prime Minister. Mr Mandelson had set his sights on ousting Robin Cook as Foreign Secretary, but after becoming a Cabinet minister, he raised his ambitions by

BY COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

preparing for a move to the Treasury, the book claims.

Tony Blair was to move Mr Brown "reluctantly" to the Foreign Office before the general election, making room for Mr Mandelson to move from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Treasury, leaving him as the "heir apparent" to take over from Mr Blair when he stepped down as Prime Minister.

The claims were treated sceptically at Westminster last night and dismissed as "fanciful and absurd" by Mr Mandelson's friends, but the new allegations underline the extent to which the Government is

BRITAIN TODAY

finding it difficult to refocus on policy, instead of the personal feuds across the Cabinet.

It was disclosed in The Independent yesterday that a powerful backbench campaign is being mounted against Mr Mandelson and today the Par liamentary Labour Party is expected to say at a meeting with the Prime Minister at Westminster that he should not bring back Mr Mandelson, at least until after the next election.

Paddy Ashdown and his party intend to embarrass the Government today with a debate deploring "politically partisan presentation, spin-doctoring, unattributed briefing and the pursuit of personal rivalries between ministers".

4.25pm 4.19pm 4.27pm 4.11pm 4.17pm 4.16pm 4.06pm

HIGH TIDES

8.33 3.23 2.21 3.44 8.57 5.28 1.27 8.42

## Port to blame for

THE PORT of Milford Haven admitted yesterday it was to blame for the Sen Empress oil tanker disaster which cost more than £100m in damage and clean-up

Cardiff Crown Court was told that John Pearn, the pilot who guided the ship on the night it ran aground, had never before handled a ship as big as the 147.000-tonne Sea Empress. He lost control of the ship in the strong tides around the rocky

entrance of Milford Haven Mr Pearn's employers appeared in court to admit causing the disaster. The port authority pleaded guilty to causing 72,000 tonnes of crude oil to enter the sea off Pembroke-

caused berries, the birds'

favourite food, to stay on

the branches longer and the berry juice fermented.

All the dead birds had

purple stains on their

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

ruary 1996. More than 20,000 sea birds are thought to have perished and 120 miles of coast was polluted. Local fisheries closed for months while tourism claims could be as high as £46m.

Michael Hill QC, counsel for the Environment Agency told the court the port authority should not have allowed Mr Pearn to bring in such a large tanker without a second pilot.

The agency laid the blame for the spill, Britain's second-worst tanker catastrophe, on the flawed rules, procedures and management of Milford Haven Port Authority, and on defects in the way it trained its maritime

#### JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCEIVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMEET **Pinochet** lawyers vetoed law lord

By Kim Sengupta :-

LORD WOOLF, Master of the Rolls, will not be sitting on the rehearing of the Pinochet case after objections from the former Chilean dictator's lawyers, The Independent can reveal.

In an unprecedented and highly controversial move, the House of Lords has effectively given General Augusto Pinochet's lawyers the power of vetting the new panel of judges who will hear the case from next Monday.

Lord Woolf is the second most senior jurist in England and Wales after the Lord Chief Justice, and would have been the most liberal of the seven udges who will rule whether General Pinochet has immunita from prosecution on charges of human rights abuse

A decision by the previous panel that General Pinochet does not have immunity from prosecution was overturned by fellow law lords because of the failure by Lord Hoffmann to declare his links with Amnesty international, the human rights group that had lobbied for the former dictator to be charged.

Subsequently the Lord-Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, wrote to Lord Browne-Wilkinson, the senior law lord, asking for the Lords to be more vigilant about not giving the appearance of bias.

The judicial office of the House of Lords had written to General Pinochet's solicitors, Kingsley Napley, mentioning Lord Woolf as a candidate for stepped down from hosting a fund-raising dinner for Amnesty on 26 January, after being told he may be on the panel.

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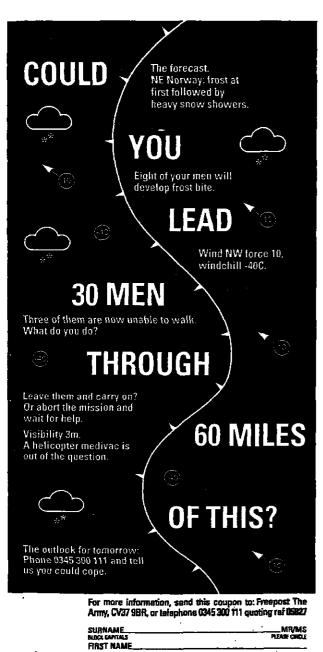
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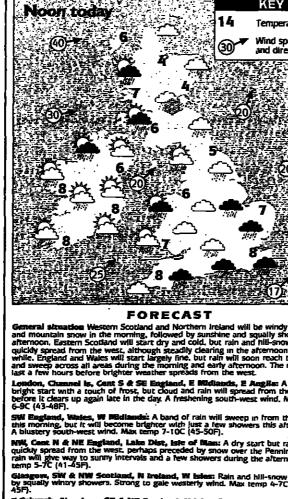
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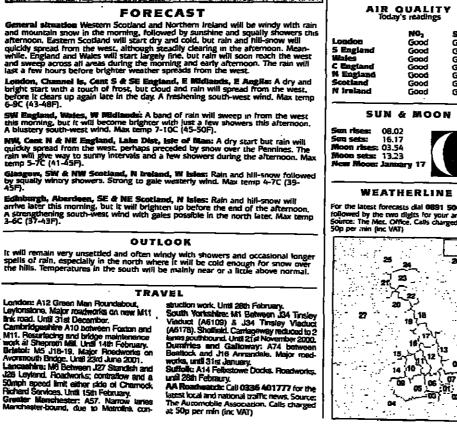
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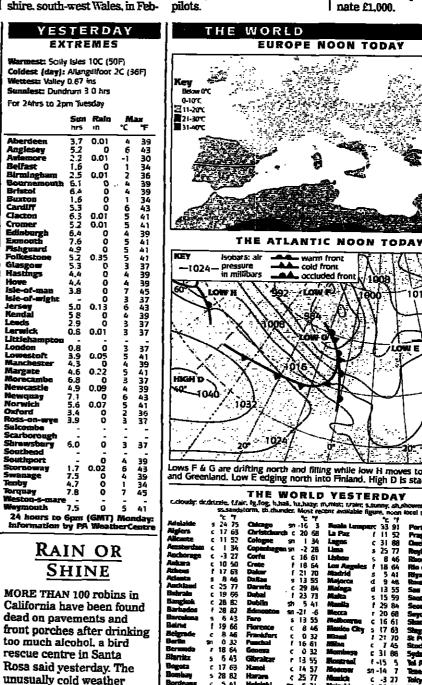
His name had been on a letter sent to law firms asking for donations for a building for Amnesty. Other signatories were Lord Irvine, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill and Lord Hoffmann Kingsley Napley also received the letter and promised to donate £1,000.



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## Early bird is key to global warming

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY **Environment Correspondent** 

THE GOVERNMENT is to monitor the arrival of the first swallow in spring to check on the progress of global warming.

It is one of 35 indicators which have been officially chosen to detect the initial signs of climate change.

Without needing to be prompted by the weekend's collapse of Beachy Head, which the Environment Agency said was climate change-induced, Government scientists have quietly started to monitor and bring together a mass of small and large events, both in the natural world and in society, which may be the first signs of a hotter planet

Some of these are already strongly suggesting that climate change is no longer a theoretical calamity predicted by the supercomputers of the Met Office, but is already with us.

The indicators they have chosen range from the arrival dates of swallows in spring and the leafing dates of oak trees, to the number of possible skiing days in Scotland, the number of insurance claims for "major weather perils" and the number of human cases of Lyme Disease, caused by a tick which flourishes in warmer

The first indications, certainly from the evidence assembled about the behaviour of birds, plants and insects, is that the greenhouse effect is now here. Over the past twenty years many events in the natural world have started to take place much earlier in the spring, in a way entirely consistent with a warmer climate

Much of this evidence is startling and when it is assembled, as the Government is doing, it is compelling. The orange tip butterfly, for example, is now emerging about 11 days earlier than it was 20 years ago. The leaves on oak trees at a monitored site in Surrey are emerging about three weeks earlier than when records began in 1947 and the swallow is arriving earlier at eight different bird observatories. Twenty species of birds have shifted their egg-laying dates an average of 8.8 days earlier in the 25-year period from 1971 to 1995.

The importance of the Government's new initiative to bring all this together is that for

THE FUTURE IS HERE ALREADY: HOW NEW WEATHER PATTERNS ARE AFFECTING BRITAIN Many migrant birds such as (right) are arriving earlier In Britain from the southern regions where they have spen the winter, and some, such as the blackcap, are now wintering here. Many others are laying their eggs earlier.



started to flower earlier in recent years. Hawthorn (left) horse chestnut blackthorn and oxeye daisy were all shown to be flowering up to three than 100 years ago in a report

Warm-water and Meditteranean turning up off the south-west Britain, They electric ray, the red mullet and

MetrOffice's \*\* computer model of the climate shows a dramatic decline in snow the 21st century.



would be the most dramatic indication yet of global warming, which scientists agree is leading to unstoppable sea-level rise.

the first time it puts official emphasis on monitoring, as well as

Until now most of the effort and funding in the fight to combat global warming - hundreds of millions of pounds - has gone into climate prediction. Scientists with complex computer models could happily tell you what was likely to happen in 50, 75 or 100 years, but were unable to tell you what was happening now, as noting that the egg-laying date of the chaffinch was weeks earlier than before

cupation only for types in anoraks.

But official recognition has finally come of the fact that dramatic trends may suddenly emerge from large numbers of small observations, once they are plotted, and the need to observe the many minute changes which may be the first signs of a dramatically warmer world is now accepted. The mass of information is

single database, coordinated

the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in Edinburgh

His unpublished pilot study, "Indicators of Climate Change in the UK," which is now being reviewed by officials at the Environment Department, contains an initial 35 indicators chosen to register global warming's effect. They begin with climate and temperature itself. Obvious measures such as the number of hot and cold days being brought together in a and the amount of rainfall are joined by subtler indicators like

was regarded as a suitable oc- by Professor Melvin Cannell of soil moisture amounts, amounts of groundwater stored in chalk and the number of times a year the Thames Barrier is closed (an indicator of the rising sea-levels global warming is predicted to cause).

> Social indicators include the value of annual domestic claims for subsidence (which increases in very hot dry summers), amount of gas consumed in winter and the number of holidays taken within the UK. Agricultural indicators selected include areas of ough, and Humphrey Crick, of records not yet in the Govern-

non-irrigated potatoes and the amount of late summer hav yields. These latter two categories are more likely to show changes once climate change is firmly established. But it is the changes in wildlife behaviour that are pointing to global

warming's arrival already Two of the scientists helping coordinate the Government's data. Tim Sparks, of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Monk's Wood near Peterbor-

vineyards in the UK, yields of the British Trust for Ornithology, gave remarkable information of their own on climate-related changes in plant life last week when they published the first report of

their new monitoring network.

They compared the flowering of four different plants in 1998 with records made a century ago and found all to be much earlier.

Mr Sparks, who is an environmental statistician, holds a number of similar remarkable

ment database. He quotes the Hertfordshire Natural History Society, whose record of the dates of arrival of six migrant species of birds show the swallow is now arriving in Hertfordshire on about March 26 as against April 8 in the 1890s.

"All these records show changes in behaviour which is entirely consistent with a warmer climate," Tim Sparks

"Soon," said Humphrey Crick, "We shall be waiting for the first swallow of the winter."

## **Kunaway toster parents** plead to keep children

A COUPLE who disappeared By KATE WATSON-SMYTH with their two foster daughters after they were refused permission to adopt have written an emotional letter pleading to be allowed to keep them.

Jeff and Jennifer Bramley. disappeared from their Cambridgeshire home in September with five-year old lade Rennett and her half sister, three-yearold Hannah. In the handwritten letter, sent to Anglia Television. they ask police and social services to let them live together as a family. The letter was sent first class on 11 January and postmarked from Nottingham

The family were last spotted by a retired vicar on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. between Pickering and Grosmont on 2 January.

Although the letter was unsigned, police are taking it seriously because it contains information that only the Bramleys could know

In the letter the couple said: "We Jeff, Jenny, Jade and Hannah write this letter to tell the plight of a family that love each other and wishes to stay together. Jade and Hannah were told about us and told we would be their forever Muramy ter parents. and Daddy:

"After we had met the girls several times in their foster home, they came to live with us. They soon grew to love us as grew to love them as our daughters. Jade and Hannah told that they are to move on to

new lives with us."

The Bramleys said they were good, honest, caring people who were willing to give up their home, friends and jobs to keep the girls "with the parents they love and desperately want

to share their lives with". "We were approved to be Jade and Hannah's new Mummy and Daddy, they were placed with us for us to adopt. It is misleading to call us fos-

Social services seemed pleased with us and told us everything was fine until one day they said we were too safety conscious by saying "no" their Mummy and Daddy, as we and "don't" too often.

"The children have been

were looking forward to their another forever Mummy and Daddy." The couple claimed they had only been evaluated by one social worker, and given no chance to voice the children's

> "Jade and Hannah have cried saying they love us and don't want to live with anyone else and that if anyone comes to take them away they will hold on to us, not letting go." The let-ter ends with an appeal asking for help to adopt the girls.

Jade and Hannah are two bright, intelligent, articulate children who love us with all their hearts. We ask therefore, will someone help us to be legally their Mummy and Daddy for ever, making the hopes and dreams of these two

#### Artist is paid to discover the sweet scent of success

BY DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

THE TRUE mark of celebrity will no longer be just having your likeness painted for the National Portrait Gallery: From today stars can have their "odour portraits" taken so that gallery goers can experience the real smell of success.

The plan to have wasting chambers" in art galleries might sound like a satire on the Turner Prize but it has, in fact. been officially funded to the tune of £12,500. Artist Clara Ursitti has won the grant to create "odour portraits" of the rich and famous. She is asking sports and showbiz celebrates smell chambers in art galleries. to wear shirts impregnated with highly absorbent charcoal to pick up body scents.

These odour molecules will then be fed into a chemical profile, which depends on the analyser and the read-out will



enable scientists to re-create the celebrities' scent mix, which will then be pumped into

strength and combination of

Ms Ursitti, who is working with Dr George Dodd, a scent expert and author, said: "Everyone has their own unique odour

chemicals released by the body. We plan to open wafting chambers in galleries so that visitors can wander in and take a sniff."

Dr Dodd, who ran the UK's first smell research group at the University of Warwick, said: "We expect the scent of the sportsmen will smell very strongly of truffles but for other

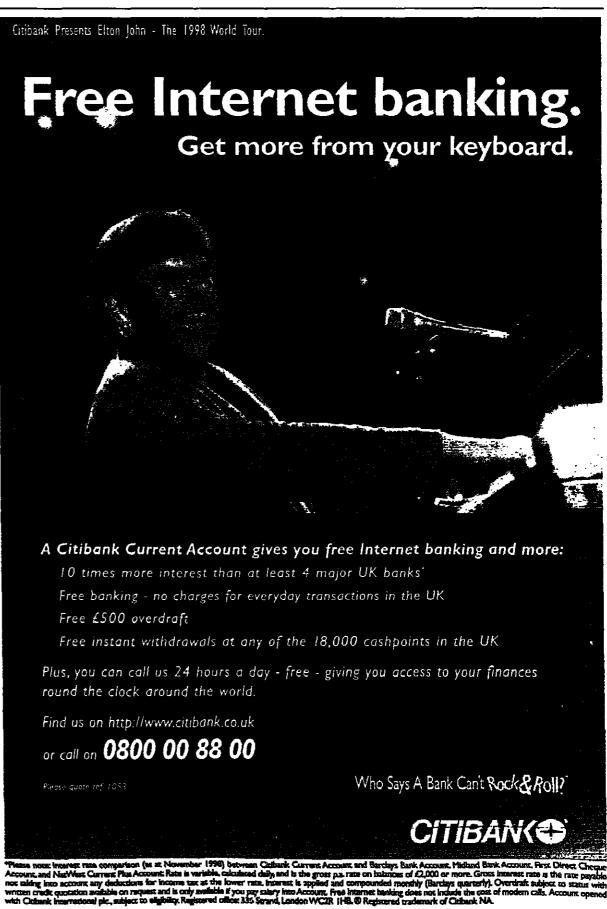
people there will be a delicate fresh shellfish smell, or even one of Camembert." He declined to identify the stars until the experiment is over.

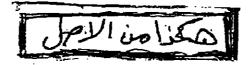
Ms Ursitti, who has a masters degree from Glasgow School of Art, and Dr Dodd, a fellow Scot, won the £12.500 grant from the Wellcome Trust.

The technique can also help

in medical diagnosis, fighting crime and even detecting a mate, according to Dr Dodd, who said: "Asthma sufferers and liver patients are known to have certain vapours in their breath. Police forces use scent as a form of fingerprinting and it can also be used in security systems where an individual odour becomes a a password.

We can even take the risk out of dating - all animals react to scent, whether they know it or not. It's what the chemistry of sexual attraction is all about."





## FO asked: Who are the key Chechens?'

CHECHNYA IS one of the few BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE countries in the world considered too dangerous for foreign governments to work.

With the exception of one British-based charity - the Halo Trust - which works clearing landmines, the only current Western presence is the observers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). So when the engineers from Granger Telecom and British Telecom arrived in the capital Grozny last year, they were a valuable commodity. From a purely economic point of the view, the five-year deal to install a mobile phone network and satellite links, of which the men were part, was worth an estimated

£190m to the Surrey-based firm. At the time of the men's kidnap on October 4 last year, the company's chief executive Ray Worth was able to say: "We un-

curity] and considered the risks were worth the effort."

But the men were also a direct source of information about Chechnya, its leadership

and investment prospects. The Independent has learnt that Granger Telecom first met with officials from the Foreign Office in July last year. At the meeting in central London, matters discussed included the nature of the work the company and its employees Darren Hickey. 26, Rudolf Petschi. 42, Stanley Shaw, 58 and selfemployed BT contractor Peter

The FO's official advice to the company and other Britons considering travelling to the Caucases semi-autonomous republic torn apart by an 18month war with Russia, was clear: Don't go. But at the same dertook the contract with the time it was desperately trying

taken hostage while working in Grozny in the summer of 1997. It is now clear the FO want-

ed to use the engineers to gather information about the Carrs. In a letter to Granger from the FO's Eastern Division dated August 13, the desk officer wrote: "As part of our efforts to secure the safe release of Camilla Carr and Jon James ... we have had frequent if so far relatively unproductive contacts with the Chechen leadership.

The letter restates what it calls its formal advice about not travelling to the country. But it Kennedy, 46, were carrying out. continues: "As one of the very Carr and Mr James were resmall number of British companies involved in Chechnya ... we would welcome your views on the potential for international investment in Chechnya."

It also asks for views on contacts considered to be the "movers and shakers" in knowledge labout the lack of set o secure the release of two Chechnya, adding: "Finally we covered near the capital.

Quaker-run charity workers, would also like to discuss the Camilla Carr and Jon James, Carr and James case. Is there Carr and James case. Is there anything else that we might be

doing to secure their release?" Last night an FO spokesman defended its request to the company and said it was only trying to bring about the release of Mr James and Mr Carr.

There is nothing wrong with this, we would have asked other companies as well," said a spokesman. "It is not soving." The spokesman refused to say whether information would have been passed to the secu-

On September 20, following an alleged bribe payment, Ms leased by the hostage-takers.

The four engineers were not to be so lucky. Within weeks of their arrival in Chechnya, they too were taken hostage. For two months there was little word on them and on December 8 their decapitated heads were dis-









Refugees from the Chechen civil war. Above: Darren Hickey, Peter Kennedy, Rudolf Petschi and Stanley Shav

IN BRIEF

McLibel Two begin appeal

THE MCLIBEL Two, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, yesterday launched their appeal against a ruling in 1997 that they libelled McDonald's with a call for an overhaul of defamation laws. The two campaigners believe the fast-food chain should have lost the original trial because some criticisms had been proved. The hearing continues.

Police chief resigns over release

A SENIOR police officer who ordered an old friend's son to be released after being arrested for wife-beating. resigned yesterday. Chief Superintendent Iain Anderson. 49, announced his decision to retire from Strathclyde Police 24 hours after being summoned to explain his actions before Chief Constable John Orr.

Girl found hanging by school tie

A 13-YEAR-OLD girl was in hospital today after her mother found her hanging by her school tie. The girl. from Benchill, Wythenshawe, in Greater Manchester, is in a serious condition. The incident comes just over a week after the death of eight-year-old Marie Bentham, who was found by her mother hanging by a skipping rope.

Silence on mortgage tax relief

THE HOUSING minister, Hilary Armstrong, refused resterday to comment on media reports that the Urban Taskforce was set to recommend that people who own or buy homes built on greenfield land should lose mortgage

THE ACCLAIMED Belfast-born author Brian Moore is being mourned in his home city after his death in the United States. The novelist, who retained strong links with the place of his birth through his books. He died on Sunday at his home near Los Angeles. He was 77.

SUE ARNOLD



Three thousand pounds does seem a lot of money for taking a few pills

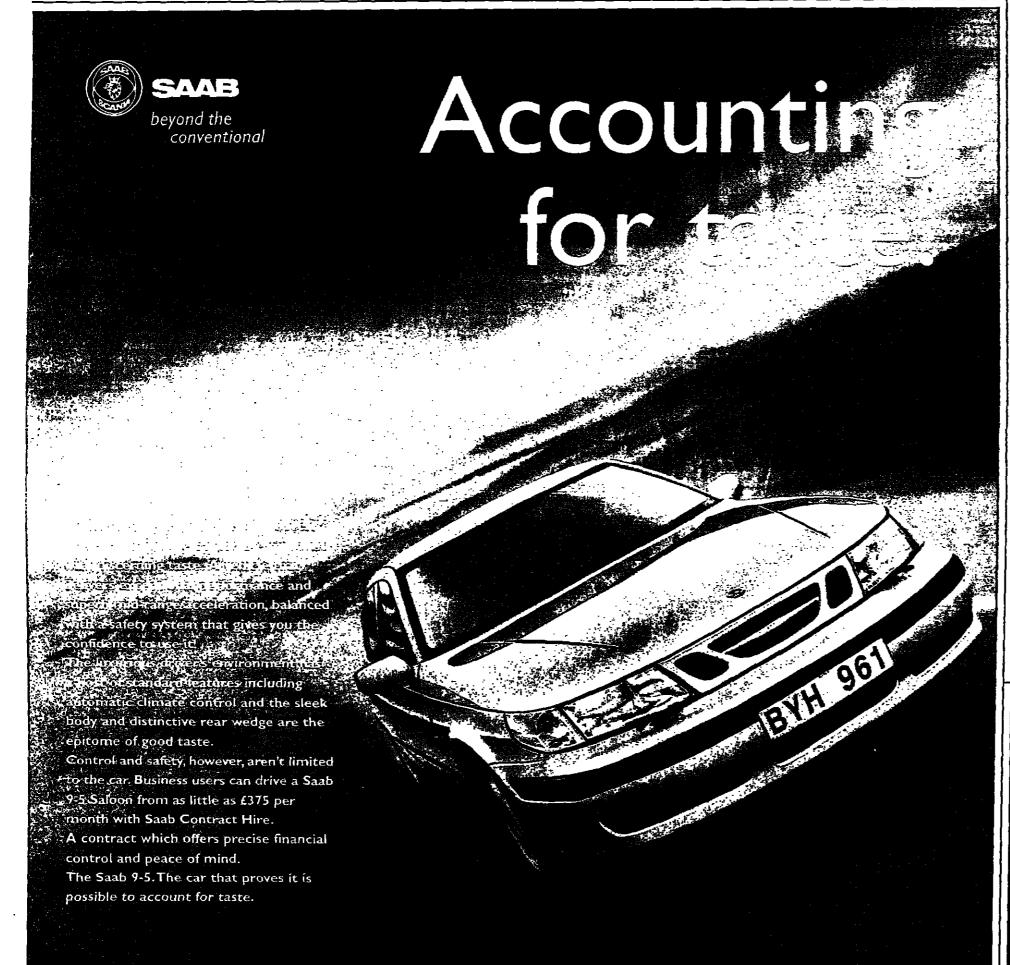
IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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## TV challenge 'could destroy football'

ENGLISH FOOTBALL'S Premier By NICK HARRIS League faces destruction and the community fabric of the country's national game will be torn apart if the League loses its landmark court case against the Office of Fair Trading, a

court was told vesterday. In opening statements at in central London, the OFT challenged the right of the League's 20 clubs, which range from giants such as Manchester United and Arsenal to less

prominent teams such as Charlton and Wimbledon, to negotiate television deals collectively. At present, the League controls all rights, sales and overseas distribution of television income among its clubs. the restrictive practices court The current television deals to screen live league games and highlights - with Sky Television and the BBC, the League's two co-defendants in the case - are worth £743m over four years.

these deals are against the public interest, that clubs should make individual, not collective, television deals, and that the public should be given a broader choice of channels on

which they can watch Premier League football. The OFT central argument against the current position is that the League is operating as a cartel, which is stifling innovation and leading to high prices.

The hearing will cost the par- Should that right to act collec-

expected four-month duration. The outcome will be decided by a judge, Mr Justice Fer-

ris, and two lay officials. Charles Aldous QC, representing the League, opened proceedings yesterday saying it was his client's right, as the governing body, to control centrally the sale of television rights. The League, he said, is controlled by its member clubs and acts in their interest.

The OFT maintains that ties involved up to £30m over its tively on behalf of the clubs be 2001. Should the OFT win, he removed, Mr Aldous added. equality of wealth distribution. both within the League and to the wider football family, would be threatened.

> At present, Mr Aldous said, the Premier League gives some £17.5m a year to football clubs and causes outside its jurisdiction. It announced on Monday that it intends to increase that figure to up to £50m a year when its next television contracts are agreed before

added, not only would that funding be threatened, but Premier League clubs would be selected for takeovers by broadcasting companies pursuing business rather than

Mr Aldous said that could lead to the break-up of the Premier League and hasten the formation of a breakaway European Superleague including only the most powerful clubs. Jonathan Sumption QC, set-

sporting agendas.

ting out Sky's position as a codefendant, said the company would argue that it is legitimate and desirable for a single broadcaster to have, for a limited time, exclusive rights to screen sports events, as long as such rights were regularly renegotiated and sold in a fair and open manner. Mr Sumption added that Sky is not alone in signing exclusive rights for live football. Manchester United.

for example, will appear more

Champions League this season

than on Sky. Christopher Carr QC, representing the BBC, said the corporation was currently able to make a comprehensive highlights programme such as Match of the Day only because the League sells rights collectively, and said it will argue that the current contracts are in the public interest.

The case continues today when the OFT will outline the times on ITV in the European main arguments of its case.



The Sheridans' isolated cottage near Upwell, Norfolk

## Police hunt callous killer in Fenland of PD James

EVEN ON the most element of days, the Fens are a bleak and brooding place. Yesterday, lashed by wind and rain, a heavy sky pressing down on fields turned grey by an overnight dusting of snow, they offered a vista of unrelieved des-

The landscape, flat as a billiard table, crisscrossed by rivers and dykes, is familiar to fans of the crime novelist P D James. At present, though, it is a real-life murder mystery that is being played out in this inhospitable corner of East

Police announced yesterday that they had launched a fullscale murder investigation into the deaths of Janice Sheridan. a 45-year-old dog breeder, and her 89-year-old mother, Con-

The two women lived together quietly outside the Norfolk village of Upwell, near Wisbech. On Sunday, they were found dead in the living room of their isolated cottage, stabbed many times, in what detectives called a "callous and

ruthless" attack. At a press conference vesBy Kathy Marks

terday, Detective Superintendent Steve Swain, head of Norfolk CID, said police were baffled by the lack of an obvious motive. "They had no enemy in the world who had reason to inflict such horrible injuries on

The women were not wealthy and there were no signs of a break-in. Local people regarded the pair as reclusive, but not unfriendly.

A team of 30 officers is pursuing two lines of inquiry. One, that the murders may be connected to the women's vocal opposition to the establishment of a travellers' site near Upwell. Two, a possible link to the notoriously murky world of pedigree dog breeding.

Det Supt Swain said police were trying to establish

them," he said.

Janice Sheridan, who was single, bred prize-winning whippets and was well known on the show circuit. She was due to exhibit a puppy at Cruft's in March. She and her mother, a widow, kept 20 whippets at

whether any of the dogs had



been stolen. None of the whippets was injured in the attacks,

and all were in good condition. The cottage, at the end of a winding, single-lane track called Pingle Bridge, was

shrouded in silence yesterday. Police were searching for tyre tracks and were also scrutinising footprints found near the house, although it was thought that they probably belonged to a neighbour who raised the alarm.

The tiny village of Upwell, intensely insular like most Fenland communities, has not known a murder since the 1960s. Pauline Overland, 54, a smallholder, said: "I used to go

down Pingle Bridge to play when I was a child. It's a peaceful and happy place."

In the Five Bells Inn, where a lone drinker supped at lunchtime, the barman, David Ward said he often saw Janice Sheridan out walking her dogs.
"Whoever did this is sick and twisted." he said.

In the Fens, people say that geographic isolation and the monotonous landscape can induce a peculiar form of madness. Whether it can turn into something more sinister, push someone over the edge to commit two apparently senseless murders, must remain, for now, pure speculation.

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#### Payout for McQueen over plagiarism libel

Givenchy, the fashion house where he is chief designer, accepted substantial libel damages yesterday over claims of plagiarism from the London listings magazine Time Out.

false allegations by fashion students that McQueen had copied their designs. One of the dresses in question was a white, one-shouldered toga dress first shown at McQueen's debut which initially we saw as nothhaute couture show for Givenchy in January 1997.

Queen said that Trevor Merrell, 36, a former student of the London College of Fashion, first made contact about 18 from trying it on in the future." months ago, claiming that the dress was a copy of one of his lows a series of allegations of

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN and By Susannah Frankel Fashion Editor

own designs. Six months later, Time Out got hold of another student's story, alleging that one of her fabric designs had The magazine had carried been plagiarised by McQueen. "This sort of allegation is not

uncommon," said the McQueen spokesperson, "It took an awful lot of time and energy to deal with these particular claims, ing more than annoying. Having taken advice from our A spokesperson for Mc- lawyers at Givenchy, however, we decided that if we took a stand on this particular occasion it would stop other people

The action by Givenchy fol-

plagiarism in fashion. Breach of copyright in fashion depends on whether the substance of a garment has been copied rather than just the idea behind it.

In 1993, the London-based design duo Antoni & Alison received an out-of-court settlement for undisclosed damages from Giorgio Armani who, they alleged, had produced a T-shirt bearing a logo too close to one of their own designs. In 1994, Raiph Lauren paid £250,000 damages to Yves Saint Laurent for copyright infringement of a black tuxedo evening sheath. Equally high-profile was Liza Bruce's attempt to sue Marks & Spencer over a swimwear design. The designer's legal costs put her out of business.



The McQueen dress that he was accused of copying

summer haute couture collection is to be shown this weekend, said: "I was determined to prove will not be tolerated."

#### that accusations of this nature McQueen, whose spring/

#### Ted Hughes wins Whitbread prize

THE LATE POET laureate Ted BY DAVID LISTER Hughes received his second posthumous award in as many days yesterday. His collection of poems about his relationship with Sylvia Plath, Birthday Letters, won the 1998 Whitbread Poetry Award only 24 hours after it won the TS Eliot Prize. In two weeks' time Hughes'

Arts News Editor

Tales From Ovid.

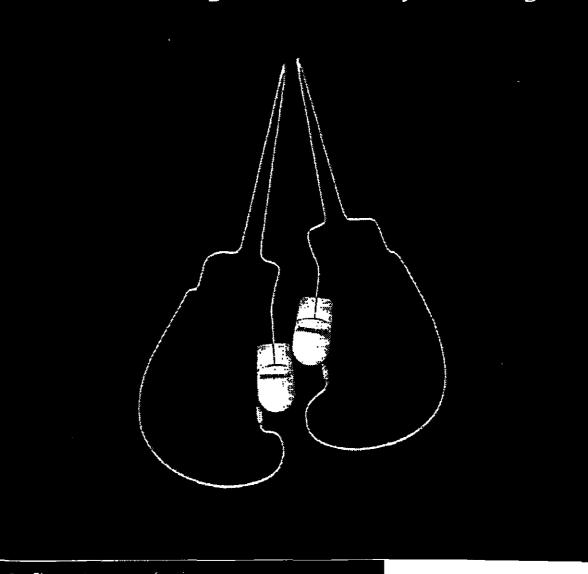
The panel of nine judges, chaired by Raymond Seitz, former US ambassador to the UK, said: "In this personal collection Hughes avoids every pitfall - of bread Book of the Year prize, tion - that the subject, his wife's cover and question his past life. phy award.

suicide, could have led him into. His account of that relation- Foden for The Last King Of ship seems hewn from granite."

The winner of the award for best novel was Justin Cartwright, a television documentary maker, for his book Leading The Cheers, in which an unemployed man returns to small-town America after living book could win the £21,000 Whit- remorse, self-pity, self-justifica- in London and begins to redis-

Scotland. The book traces Idi Amin's eight-year dictatorship of Uganda from the fictional perspective of a young Scottish doctor appointed Amin's personal physician.

Amanda Foreman's biography, Georgiana, Duchess Of Devonshire, won the biogra-



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TROUBLED HISTORY

THE FIRST hospital appeared on the Ashworth site in 1878 - a convalescent home. Moss Side House, for children from Liverpool workhouses. By 1914, the hospital had been taken over by the Red Cross and established a reputation for treating shell-shocked soldiers from the Great War. Moss Side became a special hospital in 1933.

in the 1970s, overcrowding at Broadmoor resulted in further expansion and

the construction of Park

Lane Special Hospital on

1974 and was gradually expanded until 1984 into

a high-security psychiatric facility operating indepen-dently of Moss Side. In

1989, the two hospitals

were amalgamated to be-

come Ashworth Hospital.

murderer lan Brady.

Patients include the Moors

In March 1991, a televi-

sion documentary alleged

In 1996, the convinted

Daggett escaped from the

hospital in what he said

was a protest against his

treatment in the hospital's

Personality Disorder Unit.

He compiled a dossier of

that a patient had died

after being beaten by

staff. A government

paedophile Stephen

inquiry led to a major

land at the facility. Park Lane opened in

Fallon inquiry: Management blamed for 'therapeutic nihilism' that allowed unit to become awash with hard-core porn

## Ashworth run by inmates not staff



Ashworth hospital: Child played with sex offender

A TELEPHONE call from Dirty By JEREMY LAURANCE Harry's bar in Amsterdam in September 1996 triggered the Ashworth inquiry that reported yesterday. On the line was Stephen Daggett, a convicted paedophile and Ashworth inmate who had absconded days earlier while on a shopping trip to Liverpool. What he had to say lifted the lid on one of the worst scandals to engulf the too-security mental hospital in its 100-year history. Daggett, 38, claimed the hos-

pital was awash with pornographic literature and videos. that inmates had a ready supply of drugs and alcohol



Stephen Daggett: Phone call triggered inquiry

and, most damaging of all, that an eight-year-old girl had made regular visits and been allowed ward, with a patient convicted

Daggett. who spent 12 years in Ashworth after being convicted of three indecent assaults against young girls, promised to return to the hospital on one condition - that his claims would be investigated. He had absconded, he said, because it was the only way of drawing attention to a situation that had been ignored by the hospital authorities.

While on the trip to Liverpool - part of his rehabilitation pro**Health Editor** 

gramme - he had managed to withdraw £1,500 from his building society account and then given the nurse escorting him, Jim Corrigan, the slip.

Daggett was picked up in Canterbury and returned to Ashworth on 7 October. He set about producing an account of his claims entitled "My Concerns". The hospital authorities dismissed his version of events.

It was only when Alice Mahon, the Labour MP whose constituents in Halifax include Daggett's parents, produced a 60-page dossier based on his account that ministers took notice.

The allegations related to the Personality Disorder Unit, a block of five locked wards that housed some of the most intractable cases at Ashworth. By common consent among psychiatrists, offenders with personality disorders are the hardest, if not impossible, to treat. This "therapeutic nihilism" fostered a policy of containment rather than treatment - and what emerged was that the unit was effectively run by its 115 inmates rather than the staff.

As ministerial anxiety about Ashworth grew. in the light of Alice Mahon's claims, a raid was ordered on Lawrence ward, part of the Personality Disorder Unit, on 17 January 1997. What it disclosed beggared belief. One of Britain's three top security mental hospitals, housing some of the most dangerous offenders in the land, had become a centre of sex offences against children. for the circulation of hard-core pornography.

> In the ward shop, 41 hardcore porn videos were on sale. More than 800 other videos were found on the ward, 700 of which had been recently wiped or carried traces of pornographic recording. Some of the videos depicted bestiality; sadomasochism and child abuse and video machines were used to copy the tapes. One patient's room was found to contain 225 videos alone. Some of the ma-



Peter Fallon: Recommends Ashworth should close after finding senior managers 'totally unable to control the institution' Peter Macdiarmid

#### AGENDA FOR CHANGE

ASHWORTH has been given quantities of women and children's underwear. Another pafour months to develop an tient ran what the inquiry team action plan to implement described as a "computer conurgent changes. Four NHS employees

no evidence she was abused.

She had access to one patient,

Peter Hemming, who had a his-

tory of molesting young girls in-

cluding indecent assault and

attempted rape; she also visit-

ed another, Paul Corrigan, who

had kidnapped, tortured, sexu-

ally assaulted, mutilated and

murdered a 13-year-old-boy.

named in Fallon report and Routine searches at the hospital were farcical. One case still employed at Ashworth involving Mr Corligan, the are to be disciplined.

■ Arrangements for dealing nurse who escorted Daggett, recorded how he would sit on a with people with personalipatient's bed reading a pornographic magazine before leaving and marking it down as a

# £4.5m to be invested in improved security at Ashworth, including x-rays. metal detectors and sniffer dogs, and a further £1.5m for extra security staff at all three special hospitals.

■ Visits by children other than relatives of patients

security, including the use of post and telephones, at all three special hospitals to report directly to NHS chief executive, Sir Alan Langlands. ■ Social Services Inspec-

■ Review of all aspects of

torate to conduct inquiries the three special hospitals.

purposes" although there was ruary 1997, Stephen Dorrell, the July 1998, after senior doctors then health secretary, announced the inquiry into Ashworth under judge Peter Fallon, which was published vesterday. Five members of staff were suspended, including the chief executive, Janice Miles. She resigned in July 1997 after being cleared by an internal inquiry.

Her successor, Dr Hilary

about her management style.

The history of the scandal-hit hospital had brought many to the view that it was beyond rescue, long before yesterday's recommendation by the Fallon inquiry that it should close. Ashworth, Broadmoor and Rampton, Britain's three top-

security mental hospitals, have

been criticised for more than a decade for being too big, too crowded and too isolated, professionally and geographically

Sir Louis Blom Cooper, the distinguished QC who chaired an inquiry into Ashworth in a brutal, dehumanising regime, said yesterday the hospitals were "unmanageable" and the Government should have begun dismantling them years ago. He had found a penal, oppressive regime dominated by the Prison Officers' Association, to which most of the nurses

belonged. Speaking on BBC radio, he said: "They are much too big... [and] they carry around the terrible legacy of the criminal lunatic asylum ... they never actually got rid of the idea that

they were partly a prison." Mind, the mental health charity, echoed his views. "We want a national network of

claims that led to the new inquiry being ordered. high-security units rather than

these massive institutions that

are trying to treat people with

a huge range of mental health

needs," said a spokeswoman. There had been earlier signs of improvement. A report by the 1992 that uncovered evidence of Health Advisory Service in 1996 said there had been "major advances" in the running of Asbworth and that "a great deal of progress had been made in addressing the unhelpful as of the previous hospital culture". It appears this progress was subsequently lost and according to vesterday's report, weak management was to blame. Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, described it as "a systematic shambles".

Last night Daggett, who is now housed at Rampton Hospital, spoke of his "vindication" "I do not expect to be thanked for what I did. At first I was ridiculed because people simply could not get their head around what I was telling them," he said.

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## Inspectors criticise regimes at Britain's top-security sites

By JEREMY LAURANCE

terial was locked in a medical

cabinet to which staff had no

key. The raid also uncovered

search. He was later dismissed.

the eight-year-old daughter of a

former inmate of Ashworth was

taken into care. The father,

known as Mr Y, had regularly

taken her into the hospital and

was also the main source of the

pornography in the hospital,

which he had brought in by the

car-load. In the chilling words of

yesterday's report the girl was

being "groomed for paedophile

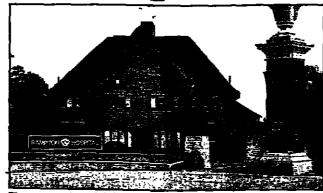
Two weeks after the raid,

sultancy business".

SINCE 1980, Britain's three topsecurity mental hospitals have been subject to critical reports. There have been two for each institution, Broadmoor in Berkshire, Rampton in Nottinghamshire and Ashworth in

Broadmoor, which was founded in 1863, holds 443 patients at a cost each of £93,000 a year, including Peter Sut-cliffs, the Yorkshire Ripper. In 1988 the Health Advisory

Service and Social Security Inspectorate said "time was running out for a hospital largely without direction displaying all the faults of a total custodial institution and housed in grim Victorian buildings". That was followed in 1993 by an inquiry cluding nurse Beverly Allitt.



into the death of Orville Blackwood and two other black pa-

tients at Broadmoor. Rampton was founded in 1912, and holds 448 patients at a cost each of £96,000 a year, in-

Boynton condemned many features of its organisation and practice and in 1989 a follow-up inquiry found continuing

grounds for serious criticism.

Ashworth, which was found-

ed in 1933, holds 456 patients at a cost each of £105,000 a year, including the Moors murderer, Ian Brady. In 1992, a report by Sir Louis Blom Cooper uncovered a "brutalising regime" in which patients were abused and humiliated by staff.

The Government ordered an internal review of high security care by Dr John Reed. Published in July 1994, it recommended a cut in the size of the special hospitals and the transfer of patients to smaller units. Ministers shelved the

Yesterday a report by Peter Fallon said senior managers were "totally unable to control the institution" and it should close. It was reprieved by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of

## Alert over 'impoverished' jail

THE CHIEF Inspector of BY IAN BURRELL Prisons, Sir David Rams-"seriously impoverished" con-

ditions at Birmingham prison. The prison, known as Winson Green, which holds 1,100 in cells designed to take 743, was described by Sir David as

should rethink the way it runs all "local" prisons, the jails where people are kept before they are tried.

In a report on the prison, Sir David stated that only 10 per cent of prisoners were receiving education, and it had no pro- because it is yet another gross-

Home Affairs Correspondent grammes to treat sex offenders,

despite containing a large number of such criminals. The jail's health centre was described as "the untidiest and

dirtiest that inspectors had seen anywhere", although it He said the Prison Service employed eight cleaners. Prisoners in the health centre were given their last meal of the day at 3.45mm. Sir David said: "I hope that this report will be read with

some concern by ministers and

Prison Service headquarters

which the treatment and conditions of prisoners fall far He said that 75 per cent of

the prisoners at Birmingham had been sentenced, so they should not have been in a local prison. Up to 700 were unemployed and spent nearly all day locked in cells. Prison officers were over-

stretched because when a prisoner was transferred for treatment at an outside hospital, six officers, working in pairs on eight-hour shifts, were required to give 24-hour cover. Sir David reported: "One prisoner

ly overcrowded local prison in has now been on such a watch for over five months. I dread to think what is the cost of six of-

ficers a day for over 150 days."
The director-general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt. said: "I recognise the fact that Birmingham prison currently holds more inmates than it would in an ideal world. However, as a local prison, Birmingham has a duty to accept into custody all those committed to it by the courts in its catchment area."

He said the prison had recently asked for further funding, which would finance a sexoffender programme.

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NEEDEN

Malaise

## Railway round-up rouses Prescott from his holiday blues

JOHN PRESCOTT looked bored and it up in the official residence at everywhere, except in Hull. The fed up during most of Transport and Dorneywood, while giving a series Deputy Prime Minister stirred Environment questions vesterday.

Making his first Commons appearance since his suggestion of a new power axis with Gordon Brown, he seemed unusually preoccupied. Rather more overweight than usual, he looked as though the festive indulgence had taken its toll. Maybe he was trying to diet, which might have accounted for his unwillingness to react, or perhaps. now the boss is back from the Sey-

chelles, he misses being in charge. The recess was an enjoyable experience for the Deputy Prime Minister to run the show and live

of interviews hinting that Old Labour would be taking over in the ered to shout his usual obscenities wake of Peter Mandelson's resignation. In the Chamber, Mr Prescott can usually be goaded Doncaster Central) asking a patsy into a rage. He mutters incessantly, even when Tories attack him indirectly. Not today.

Bernard Jenkin, a Tory frontbencher, asked Richard Caborne, a junior minister, about favouritism in Mr Prescott's constituency over Government road projects.

Mr Jenkin was suggesting Mr proclaiming him to be anti-car

briefly, but could not even be bothfrom his seated position.

Even Rosie Winterton (Lab. question about the role of buses failed to ignite him. At the mention of buses he usually waxes lyrical, but on this occasion he mumbled something about more people being able to use low-floor buses.

Richard Ottoway, another Tory, asked if Mr Prescott would resign if the Jubilee Line Extension was Prescott has double standards, not open in time for the Millennium. "It will be," Mr Prescott snapped. THE SKETCH



MICHAEL **BROWN** 

If there were delays they would be sorted out but the problems were "all the Tories' fault" anyway.

Only when we got to railways did Mr Prescott rouse himself like a lazy lion to play his favourite game of Fat Controller. Mr Prescott gets it both ways with trains.

If any MP takes him to task about the ghastly services, he blames it all on the Tories and privatisation. If anything is going well, it is, he says, only because he is putting more money into trains. He got momentarily excited when it came to discussion of the Strategic Rail Authority which, according to him, will solve all the ills of privatisation. But there was Tory mockery when he declared that there would be a "rail summit" on 23 February.

enthusiasm, to bluster his way through rail questions with a series of statistics. "800 new drivers; 500 new rolling stock vehicles." Now that he has become respectable, responsible and very important, there are fewer examples of the old Prescott, where anger and rage

were his hallmarks. We did get one example of a Prescott howier, however, when he talked of a "crash programme to find new drivers".

With Mr Prescott largely taking a back seat yesterday, it was left to the formidable Transport Select Committee chairman, Gwyneth

Mr Prescott did his best, without Dunwoody, to provide us with the cabaret act as she described the latest horrors of travelling on Richard Branson's Virgin Trains. Mrs Dunwoody reported that in

her area there are no printed timetables available to passengers and suggested that this was probably just as well because since, as no trains run on time anyway, passengers might as well guess what time trains arrive and depart.

Forget rail summits, Mr Prescott: put Mrs Dunwoody in charge of your authority and Mr Branson and his ilk won't have a prayer before her formidable powers of rage and persuasion.

calls

trains

summit

TRANSPORT By Sarah Schaefer

RAIL PASSENGERS who have

been angered by delays and low standards of service will be able to complain personally to

leaders of the rail industry at a

summit next month, it was an-

Prime Minister, said the Rail

Summit on 25 February would

kick-start a long-term effort to

improve standards across the

with the performance of train

companies and Railtrack, Mr

Prescott will seek to thrash out

plans for immediate action at

The move follows last No-

vember's meeting between Mr

Prescott and the train compa-

nies, when they pledged to re-

cruit 800 new drivers and

A spokesman for the De-

partment of the Environment,

Transport and the Regions said

the meeting was being billed as

a transport version of the

"water summit" held with

water firms last May on action

Mr Prescott's announce-

MPs attacked the quality of

rail services, singling out

Richard Branson's Virgin West

Coast main line trains for spe-

to prevent leaks.

cial criticism.

introduce 500 new trains.

Amid continuing problems

John Prescott, Deputy

Political Reporter

nounced yesterday.

railway network.

the meeting.

**Minister** 

## Payout after 15 years for GCHQ staff

Cook: Decision reflected

held. According to sources, three

of the 14 were reinstated in gov-

ernment service, seven were

past retirement age and the

pension benefits of one had been

brought forward on health

terms of Mr Cook's decision and

are said to be "delighted" that

finally an end had been put to

a "clear wrong" by the gov-

The ban was imposed at the

height of Mrs Thatcher's battle

against the trade unions during

the mid 1980s. She claimed

14 were eventually sacked for

refusing to leave their union.

ernment of the time.

But they have accepted the

the 'principled stand'

TRADE UNION RIGHTS By Sarah Schaefer Political Reporter

FOURTEEN STAFF who were dismissed from the top-secret gevernment communications neadquarters for refusing to surrender their union mempership will be offered compensation for lost pension rights. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced vesterday.

Mir Cook said his decision "reflected the principled and brave stand" taken by the 14 after Margaret Thatcher banned union rights at GCHQ in Cheltenham in 1984 when she was orime minister.

The announcement marks an end to a campaign that has become a cause celebre in the Government's relations with

The Foreign Secretary said the issue had been one of his priprities since he took office in May 1997 because the policy by the Thatcher government had been "wrong" and the 14 should not be "sulfering" in their retirement because they had "stuck to their principles".

"The essential point for me and for the trade unions was viaether we could distinguish between the 14 who were dismissed and others who left GCHQ. We are both now satis-Sed that a distinction can be made on behalf of those who took their principled stand," he

The amount of their compensation will depend on how long each of the 14 was serving at GCHQ and what grade they

tributes, saying: "This finally closes a sorry chapter in British history Robin Cook deserves great credit for righting this

wrong." John Sheldon, the general secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said: "Compensating those trade unionists dismissed from GCHQ for the loss of their pension rights is the final step necessary to remedy the wrong done in January 1984. The announcement ensures that those brave trade unionists who stood out against the actions of the previous government even to the point of dismissal will not now suffer in their retirement as a consequence."

Mr Cook said his decision followed talks with the Council of Civil Service Unions and the TUC, which had reached "agreement in principle".

This decision reflects the principled stand which the 14 trade unionists took, to the point of dismissal, against the attempt to take away their basic trades union rights." he said in a parliamentary written reply.

"The additional pensions that civil servants' membership benefits will be provided of the trade unions posed a through a special scheme under "conflict of interest" with loyalty the Superannuation Act 1972, to the state, and that industriwhich will be laid before Paral action during the 1981 civil liament once the details have service pay strike had combeen finalised."

Mr Cook added in a separate promised the country's security. Seven thousand staff were statement that the 14 "took a brave stand in the 1980s against subsequently offered £1,000 each in compensation and the a policy that was wrong.

This agreement means that they Il no suffer in their retirement for sticking to their principles." he added. John Monks, the TUC general secretary, led trade union



Sir David Gore-Booth, former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, outside his London home yesterday Andrew Stuart

## Diplomat 'behaved like Waugh'

A SENIOR diplomat behaved like someone "out of Evelyn Waugh" when he responded to a Briton's complaint by firing off an angry letter to the man's boss, a Commons select com-

<u>The House</u>

Fraud tally

BENEFIT FRAUD is so

prevalent that Sir John

Bourn, the comptroller

and auditor general,

qualified the National

Insurance fund's accounts

for the 12th year running.

Sir John said fraud in the

payment of Jobseekers'

allowance amounted to

£46.9m in 1997-98 and that

misuse of giros and order

books could add up to a

**Crony claims** 

as it announced the

on the future of BBC

funding. The Funding

Review Panel will be

THE GOVERNMENT ran

into claims of "cronyism"

membership of its panel

chaired by one of Gordon

Brown's closest economic

**Business today** 

Commons: Debates on

pay for nurses; future of

the Post Office. Cabinet

Office questions. Prime

Debate on Government

information and Britain's

prevention of HIV/Aids in

increased time for leisure

Minister's questions.

role in Europe.

doctors.

Lords: Debates on

sub-Saharan Africa;

activities; disciplinary

procedures for hospital

advisers, Gavyn Davies,

chief international economist at Goldman

further £64m.

mittee was told yesterday. Sir David Gore-Booth, the former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, was heavily criticised in an ombudsman's report after Paul Surtees, a British Aero-

BY FRAN ABRAMS Westminster Correspondent

space employee in the country, lost his job. The diplomat, who left the service recently, found himself under attack from the House of Commons Public Administration Committee, where MPs criticised a letter he

plained about the consular service. In it, Sir David referred to Mr Surtees as "one of yours".

Rhodri Morgan, the Labour chairman of the committee, told Sir David: "That comes straight out of Evelyn Waugh and I find it extremely disturbing."

Sir David replied: "I have made it the business of my wrote in 1994 to BAe's chief ex- career not to act like Evelyn

tees was working on the £20bn al-Yamamah arms contract on behalf of the Government, so he son should "stop ballooning" had a right to pass comment.

Sir John Kerr, the head of the diplomatic service, said that the incident was "disgraceful." Ambassadors had been issued with guidelines, telling them to keep any complaints confiden-

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said Mr Branand deal with the day to day misery of thousands of rail

passengers. Mr Prescott said it was "gen-

erally agreed" there had not been an improvement in the quality of the railway system since privatisation

## INTERPLAK

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(see pack for details)

## Labour hit by jobs for the boys' outcry

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

facing redundancy because

MINISTERS FACED renewed claims of Labour sleaze in town halls yesterday after allegations of a "jobs for the boys" scandal at a Midlands council.

Gillian Shephard, shadow **Environment Secretary, called** on John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to investigate after a senior Labour councillor in Walsall claimed that he had been asked by Unison officials to find jobs for Labour party members threatened

with redundancy.
Graham Walker, who has since quit the party, said union officials made clear there was a long-standing agreement that be saved in budget cuts.

"They were saying co-operate in finding jobs for these people or all hell will break loose," he said.

Two Unison officials were allegedly caught on tape asking the councillor to spare five staff

they had campaigned for Labour at the general election. Mrs Shephard said the con-

BY PAUL WAUGH

Political Correspondent

troversy proved the folly of the Government's decision to scrap compulsory competitive tendering (CCT), which had ended union monopolies over service delivery. "One of the reasons we introduced CCT was because unions had a lock over council workforces and there was too much hand-in-glove working."

Bernard Jenkin, Tory MP for Essex North, raised the Walsall claims in the Commons yesterday during the second reading debate on the Local Government Bill. It replaces the CCT regime with a system of "best value", which removes the need to tender to the private sector but requires town halls councils."

to meet high standards of service on everything from dustbin collection to meals on wheels.

Councils will have to meet performance targets and subject plans to scrutiny by the local electorate. They will be inspected by the Audit Commission to ensure they are providing value for money compared with similar authorities.

Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government minister, said the Bill would ensure competition between the public and private sector. Councils would be obliged to strive for continuous improvement in services, a contrast to the Tory regime, which led to "minimum quality at minimum cost by minimalist providers", she said.

Mr Jenkin, a Tory environment spokesman, said: "This Bill is an invitation to cronyism of the worst kind that we see endemic in so many Labour

#### QUESTIONS **ANSWERS**

New peer gets Pinochet role

THE CHAIRMAN of the BSE inquiry. Sir Nicholas Phillips, took his seat as a new law lord. Lord Phillips of Worth

Matravers will be one of the seven peers who will hear the fresh appeal by former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet against moves to extradite him to Spain. He becomes a law lord on the retirement of Lord Lloyd of Berwick

Smoking survey

PEERS WILL be surveyed whether there should be a smoking ban in the public rooms and corridors of the Lords. Liberal Democrat Lord Avebury said because of the dangers of passive smoking a ban would be "ideal and show

## Register of nannies to be voluntary

THE GOVERNMENT rejected calls for a national register of nannies yesterday, saying such a move would be a "bureaucratic nightmare".

The decision was attacked by childcare experts who say the Government's alternative - a voluntary register of nanny agencies - will not ensure young children are protected. Under the scheme, agen-

cies that introduced extra

checks on potential employ-

ees would be given a govern-

ment "kite mark" of approval.

CHILDCARE POLICY

Margaret Hodge, the Education and Employment minister, said: "If you have a massive national register it becomes a bureaucratic nightmare. It's very difficult to keep accurate and up to date and

Announcing the plan, including new guidance for local authorities and parents, Mrs Hodge said the safety of children was "paramount". A call for new regulations follows cases where children have

been harmed by professional carers. Other measures include the establishment of a Criminal Records Bureau to make police checks easier.

Louise Davis, principal of the Norland College in Berkshire, which trains nannies, dismissed arguments that a compulsory register would be cumbersome. She said: "It would be no bigger than the register of general nurses." There also needed to be na-

tionally recognised training standards.

Cheryl Winton, founder of Playpen, a lobbying group on children's safety, said making the regulatory system volun-tary would still leave less scrupulous agencies free to operate. Caroline Abrahams, head of public policy for the charity, NCH Action for Children, said childcare involved a constantly shifting population, often of young women, which would be difficult to monitor. Deborah Orr, Review page 5

#### Dunwoody to provide to the caharet act as she describe Branzon's Virgin Trains Mrs Durwood, reputal her area there are no ture tables available to be and suggested that this w ably just as well because y no rains un on time appe sengers might as well pro-time trains arrive and de-Forset rail Prescur: put Mrs Dune

charge of your authority of

Branson and his ilk with

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THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 13 January

> Ministe calls trains Summi TRANSPORT BY SARAH SCHAPE

Political Reporter

RAIL PASSENGERS IN: rear sugged by design andards of service able to complain personable to complain perso summit next month to one Prescott 1 Prime Minister, sait e Summer on 25 February La congleme The standards are Tanway network

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QUESTION

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IN-bearing the finish

DOCTORS ARE defying the BY LOUISE JURY

ban on Viagra'

**Doctors 'defying** 

Government and prescribing the impotence drug Viagra on not clarify the position. Before the NHS, the British Medical Association said yesterday

aware some GPs were break- BMA the guidance still stood ing a ban imposed by Frank and that it provided "a sensible Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, last September amid fears that NHS prescriptions could cost the service millions of pounds.

And the GPs could be given official support from the BMA did not prescribe it to someone committee representing them, who clinically needed it. which meets on 21 January It A Department of Health has threatened to issue its own spokesman said "substantive" advice if the Government does advice would be provided soon.

Christmas, the BMA demanded "clear advice" on prescrib-A spokesman said it was ing policy. Mr Dobson told the

> A BMA spokesman said the Government was telling doctors not to prescribe Viagra on the NHS, but GPs would be in breach of terms of service if they

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## Milky Way planet may support life

AN INTERNATIONAL team of BY CHARLES ARTHUR scientists has discovered an Earth-sized planet in the middle of the Milky Way that may support life, according to one

of the researchers. It is the most promising candidate of 17 "extrasolar" planets discovered by various techniques over the past few vears. Most of those are gas giants like Jupiter, or else too remote from a star to have any chance of supporting life. The new planet appears to be both the right size and distance to

give life a chance. Ian Bond, of Auckland University, said the new planet, which lies about 30,000 light years away would probably be a little bit heavier than the Earth. "It has a probable mass range between that of the Earth and that of the planet Neptune [which has 17 times the Earth's mass]".

No pictures exist of the distant planet, which was detect-

Technology Editor

ed last July by the team at Mount John Observatory on New Zealand's South Island with Japanese, American and Australian astronomers.

Crucially, the new planet is about the right distance from its star to sustain life, if it contains the correct mixture of elements. The distance from the Earth to the Sun (93 million miles) is defined as one "astronomical unit", or AU: Mr Bond said the so-far unnamed planet "will be something like between one to four astronomical units, which

places it in a promising region". The planet was discovered using a relatively new technique called gravitational microlensing, which employs supersensitive equipment to detect a dark object's movement in front of a far more distant star. "This is the first

crolensing technique. It's the only technique that is sensitive to Earth-size planets," Mr Bond said.

The microlensing method's power is not sufficient, however, to help scientists to tell whether there is any water or other elements thought of as essential to life, for example.

Most of the extrasolar planets discovered so far have been detected because they are so massive that they induce a "wobble" in the motion of their parent star as they orbit around it.

However, such planets are unlikely candidates to support life because of their enormous surface gravities, wildly varying temperatures and the preponderance

elemental gases in their atmospheres. Gravitational microlensing, by comparison, can detect much smaller planets at greater distances.

## The newly discovered planet is about the right distance from its star in the Milky Way for the possibility of life Science Photo Library Habitual burglars get three years' jail

THOUSANDS MORE people are By JASON BENNETTO expected to be jailed in the Crime Correspondent next few years after the announcement yesterday of automatic three-year minimum prison sentences on third-time

Prison officials and penal reformers were taken by surprise by the timing of the initiative, which appears to have been rushed through to provide the Government with some much needed "positive news".

originally introduced by anced" programme combining Michael Howard, the former prevention and punishment. Tory home secretary, will come into force in December. From way to reduce crime. Our apthat date an offender who car- proach to burglary makes it ries out three domestic bur- clear that we will both punish glaries will automatically be persistent burglars and act to sent to jail for three years, al- prevent burglary in the first though in exceptional circum- place," he said. Minimum jail stances the courts can give terms would even out inconlonger or shorter prison terms.

The National Association of the country, he added. Probation Officers calculates burglary. They estimate that cepting Tory measures. about 8,000 people will have ins by 2004. The Home Office crime would be hampered by a put the figure at 4,000 in the drop in police numbers. next\_10 years - a figure widely

ridiculed by penal groups. The repeat burgiars, who will serve 16 months of their three-year sentences, will fill the estimated 4,000 prison places freed by the extension of

electronic tagging.

ment alongside details of a £50m investment in burglary prevention schemes.

It emerged that the Prison Service knew about the decision only a few days ago. A series of emergency meetings was held at the Home Office on Monday.

Mr Straw denied he was returning to the Tory policy of "Prison Works", saying he had

"This is the only effective sistencies in sentencing across

The move immediately drew that about 5,000 offenders are criticism from the opposition, under their supervision for with the Conservatives saying three or more convictions for the Government was simply ac-

The Liberal Democrats committed three house break- warned that the fight against

The three-year mandatory sentence was described as "a bombshell" by the Prison Reform Trust. Stephen Shaw, director, said mandatory penalties were "wrong in principle and likely to be disastrous in prac-tice". He added: "The impact on Jack Straw, the Home Sec- the prison population is likely to retary, made the announce-bemuch greater than the 4,000."

# Further reductions more EEEES

MARKS & SPENCER SALE NOW ON

## Tainted Cresson fights for survival



THE POLITICAL crisis over BY KATHERINE BUTLER fraud in the European Commission deepened yesterday with a scathing attack on Jacques Santer by the Prime Minister of Sweden and more calls for the sacking of two members of his team.

In a measure of the dismay felt by Scandinavian governments, even after Mr Santer, the Commission's President, promised a full clean-up on Monday, Goran Persson, the Swedish premier, wrote to him vesterday, suggesting he was trying to stifle the fraud debate.

This issue poses enormous dangers for the Union and for the public's faith in the Union," Mr Persson wrote, "if we do not able tendencies, if we try to suppress discussion, then we do not act as responsible politicians. This is something I, for one, cannot be a part of."

He was replying to a letter from Mr Santer in which the Commission chief reprimanded him for "hurting the Union" by discussing the suspension of a Commission whistlehlower on

in Brussels

to Mr Santer was intended to be confidential but, in keeping with the Swedish tradition of transparency, was immediately made public in Stockholm.

The resignations of commissioners Edith Cresson of France and Manuel Marin of Spain are being demanded by a majority of members of the European Parliament as their price for not sacking the entire Commission for financial mismanagement and fraud. The pressure for retribution is expected to grow today, as the Commission faces new allegations concerning the wife of Joao de Deus Pinheiro, who is alleged to have been given a job

A motion of censure against passed would force its 20 members to resign en masse, will be voted on in Strasbourg tomorrow but will now be accompanied by a separate resolution specifically naming Mrs Cresson, the former

current commissioner for education, and Mr Marin, a vicepresident of the Commission.

The stakes were raised last night when Socialist MEPs, the second largest group in Strasbourg, tabled another resolution demanding that Mr Santer himself resign, if individual members are "deemed culpable of financial or administrative mismanagement". The Socialists oppose what they call "cherry picking" individual commissioners but their tactic could backfire if Mr Santer ends up on trial

Mr Marin, accused of turning a blind eye to serial mismanagement in the humanitarian aid division up to 1995. was contrite on Monday when he told MEPs he was "hurting" from the charges. But Mrs Cresson, who is being held responsible for the maladministration of EU-funded education and training schemes. angered MEPs by appearing arrogant and defensive.

Conservative and Christian Democrat MEPs grouped in the European Peoples Party (EPP)

French prime minister and which, with over 200 members is the biggest bloc in the parliament, turned up the heat on Mr Santer, throwing their weight behind Liberal Democratic efforts to have the two most criticised commissioners forced out. But there were some signs yesterday that the commission's united front may

be cracking.

Mr Santer and the Dutch commissioner Hans van den Brock appealed to the EPP's members last night not to criticise individuals. Officials believe the French government may come under pressure from Bonn today to urge Mrs Cresson to stand down. This will ensure German plans to push through sweeping budgetary reforms by March are not

jeopardised. EU diplomats yesterday said the Commission had been exposed by the Union's parliament as "living in a time warp".

"It is no longer enough to say you are innocent, you have to demonstrate it and you have to offer a credible response to allegations, or else you resign,

Germany aims to end British veto on taxes

TONY BLAIR'S European strategy was placed under further pressure yesterday as Joshka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, outlined his government's ambition to end Britain's right to veto tax harmonisation.

Mr Fischer told the European Parliament the aim of the German government was to limit the principle of unanimous voting to fundamental constitutional decisions.

European integration had to be pursued, he said, to embrace such areas as taxation, particularly since the launch of the single currency. "Economic and monetary integration is largely completed with the introduction of the euro. Only a few areas are lacking, such as closer harmonisation of tax policies as advocated by

Germany took over the presidency of the European Union from Austria on 1 January and has set a deadline at the end of sweeping package of budgetary political union.

By KATHERINE BUTLER

and policy reforms aimed at preparing the bloc for expansion eastward.

But Mr Fischer said the failure to streamline the EU's decision taking mechanisms ahead of enlargement would drive the bloc into paralysis and collapse. He said the conclusion of the Agenda 2000 spending negotiations in March must be followed by agreement at a summit in Cologne in June on the timing of a new constitutional conference to rewrite the EU's voting rules.

"The key question here is the Union's readiness to accept majority decisions in as many areas as possible," Mr Fischer told MEPs. "The new federal government advocates limiting the need for unanimity in the longer term to questions of fundamental importance such

as treaty amendments. Europe now needs its own constitution, he said, if it is to March for agreement on a achieve the "ultimate goal" of

'Penthouse' shock for Frau Schroder

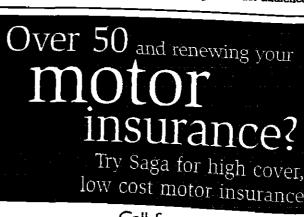
PAYING HOMAGE to Ger- By IMRE KARACS many's first lady has become a tradition at Penthouse magazine. The last time it did so, two years ago, the cartoon honouring Hannelore Kohl provoked the wrath of her husband and landed the publisher

of the German edition in court. Now it is in hot water again for its depiction of Doris Schröder-Köpf, the young woman by the new Chancellor's side. Mrs Schröder tried to slap an injunction on the cartoon, but

the writ has been dismissed. It must be said that Mrs Kohl's picture two years ago probably caused more offence. It portrayed her as the emblem on the Chancellor's official limousine, with Mr Kohl greedily looking on. A pair of blue leather gloves, a string of pearls and a tassel in the German tricolour was all she wore. Her ample beauty was for all to behold.

In last month's Penthouse. Mrs Schröder is rather more demure, a sash strung across her larger-than-life bosoms, protecting her modesty. This time, the subject had no objection to the artist's improvement of her figure. She was appalled merely by her "distorted" face and exaggerated toothy smile.

Peter Herzberg, the German editor of Penthouse, pronounced himself perplexed by her reaction. The picture, he said, was an example of the noble art of caricature, drawing on artistic licence accumulated over centuries. Case dismissed, and the magazine is now allowed to republish the cartoon which thanks to the controversy, is in any case reaching a broader audience.



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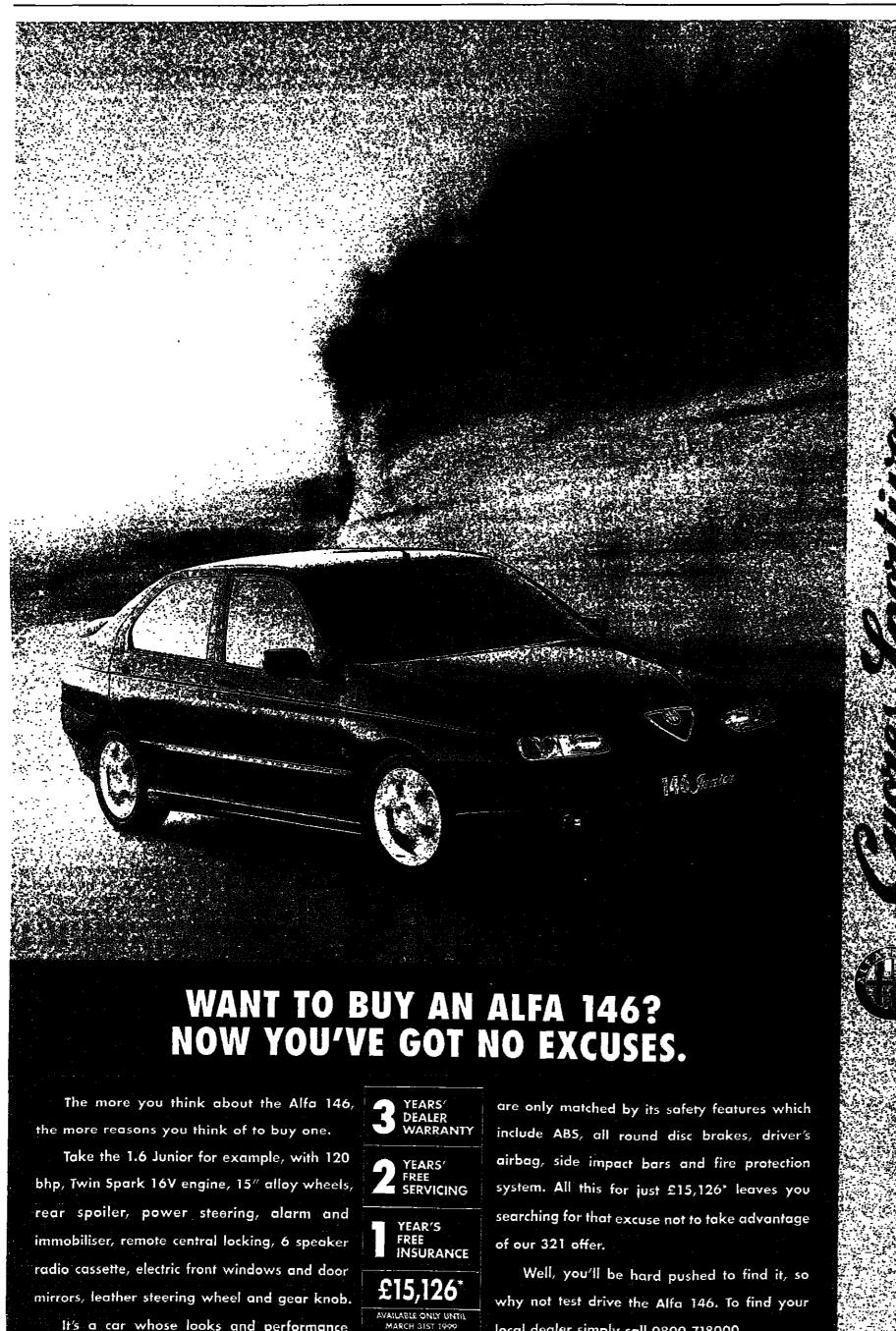
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THE INDEPENDENT,

## Viva Freetown in flames The second Liberally second control of the s as rebels retreat

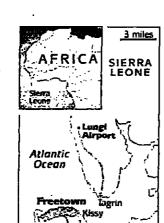
BY JEFF KOINANGE in Freetown, ALEX DUVAL SMITH AND FRAN ABRAMS

REBEL FORCES fleeing Freetown burnt buildings yesterday as Nigerian-led intervention troops retook control of the Sierra Leone capital after a week of fighting.

Humanitarian organisations warned of a looming disaster as food runs out and diplomatic efforts progress only slowly. Experts said neighbouring Guinea, which has been inundated by refugees from Sierra Leone, is itself on the verge of collapse from the effects of regional instability.

One small sign of hope was the decision by Ecomog, the Nigerian-led intervention force, to fly the detained rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, to Guinea for talks with mediators.

Sierra Leone's ambassador to Guinea said Mr Sankoh ~ a prisoner in Nigeria and Sierra Leone for the past two years went straight into talks with West African foreign ministers, the United Nations and the Sierra Leone government. "He is here in Conakry and is in negotiations," the ambassador,



Ali Kamara, said by telephone. He added, however, that Mr

Sankoh was "not a free man". Mr Sankoh's transfer abroad was a key demand of the Sierra Leone rebels - fighting under the banner of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) - before they would consider a ceasefire or political talks. He was sentenced to death for treason last October.

The RUF seized eastern and central districts of Freetown on Monday its troops had recaptured many areas but reliable battle zone was scarce. Witnesses in Freetown said yesterday that bodies "littered the streets" of the capital and rebels burnt houses and cars as they retreated before Ecomog troops. Thousands of people were reportedly trapped in get food." their houses without water, food or electricity.

A Sierra Leone hotel worker provided the first eyewitness account from the rebel-held east of the city after managing 6 January. Ecomog said on to escape the area. "The rebels are burning and destroying everything in sight as they reindependent news from the treat - cars, buildings, every-

thing," said Josephine Garnem, 25. "We saw lots of bodies in the streets - civilian and military. It was bad, very bad. For several days nothing to eat or drink ... It's getting desperate, people need to go out and

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said they feared for the civilians trapped by the fighting. A spokesman warned: "A humanitarian disaster is looming in the capital unless some kind of ceasefire is arranged and humanitarian

supplies can be brought in." West African mediators. "We lieved to have ballooned to about a million because of migration from the countryside since civil war began in the small West African country in 1991. When fighting flared in the capital last week the govern-

Nigerian troops arriving by helicopter in Freetown to reinforce the Ecomog force trying to drive rebels out the Sierra Leone capital AFP

ment ordered people to stay in their homes or be shot as rebels. The RUF's legal representative, Omrie Golley, speaking from the Ivory Coast capital Abidjan, had said before news of Mr Sankoh's transfer to Guinea that the rebels wanted their chief handed over to the

Freetown's population is be- want him to be placed in the ministers' moral custody and transferred to a mutually agreed location so talks can begin."

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, Sierra Leone's democratically elected leader, said last week that Mr Sankoh had agreed, from his prison, to an immediate ceasefire. But RUF commanders refused to believe him. Mr Golley said there was no evidence that the call if made at all - was freely entered into.

A Royal Navy frigate, HMS

#### Kabbah's BATTLES

15 March 1996: Ahmad Tejan Kabbah elected president in the country's first free elections, after five years of civil war. May 1997: Kabbah

overthrown by the army. flees to Guinea, Junta suspends constitution. bans political parties. June 1997: Nigerian ship bombs the capital. Freetown. Junta calls for truce. Ecomog, the Nigerian-led intervention force, deploys troops. October 1997:

**Economic Community of** West African States (Ecowas) imposes sanctions. UN imposes oil and arms embargo. January 1998: Fighting resumes between junta and Ecomog, aided by British mercenary firm Sandline International. February 1998: Ecomog forces arrive in Freetown, Scandal in UK over Sandline's role. 22 April 1998: Kabbah's civilian regime

restored. 4 January 1999: Rebels attack Freetown. 5 January 1999: UK sends EIm aid to antirebel forces. Nigerian planes stop rebels entering Freetown. 6 January 1999: Rebels fight their way to within a mile of the centre of Freetown. 7 January 1999 Ecomog troops advance on rebels in Freetown. 10 January 1999 Two Associated Press journalists killed in Freetown. 11 January 1999 Ecowas claims rebels

ousted from Freetown.

## American planes free to attack Iraqi radar sites

THE UNITED STATES has By Andrew Marshall widened the rules of engagement for aircraft flying over Iraq, allowing them to fire on Iraqi air defence sites before they are targeted by them.

another escalation in the con- American officials hint broadflict, with signs growing that a ly that they believe the regime fresh outbreak of violence is is on its last legs.

in Washington

likely. Iraq continues to criticise its neighbours for the backing it says they have given to Wash-The decision represents ington and London, while

The US Defense Department said yesterday that planes would be allowed to fire at radar sites even if they were not locking on to allied aircraft. To demonstrate the new tactics, a US aircraft fired a missile at an Iraqi radar site in the no-fly zone over northern Iraq yesterday, the fifth such episode in fired back.

the past few weeks. The Pentagon said that, unlike previous such attacks, this was on an early-warning radar site, part of Iraq's integrated air defences. In the other cases, the US and Britain have said that their aircraft were targeted by surface-to-air missiles, and

ing a threat to coalition forces in the area," said a Pentagon spokesman. Previously, earlywarning radars were not attacked, though American and British pilots were allowed to fire at them if they felt they posed a threat.

The war of words between

"The radar was seen as pos- Iraq and its neighbours spread through presenting facilities that incite conspiracies on Iraq." yesterday as the Iraqi parliament accused Kuwait of backing insurgents against the

> "The Iraqi National Assembly stressed that the governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are influential partners

for aggression on Iraq," said the official Iraqi News Agency.

Leone as a "precautionary

measure" last week, was due to

dock in Senegal vesterday for

re-fuelling and then head to the

announced that the arms em-

bargo which led to a furore last

year over shipments to Sierra

Leone by the British company.

Sandline International, had

been lifted. It said a new em-

bargo passed by the United Na-

tions and ratified by Britain

allowed fuel and weapons to be

shipped to the elected govern-

ment of President Kabbah.

In London, the Foreign Office

former British colony.

In particular, Kuwait was accused of "financing and supporting acts of killing and terrorism against the Iraqi to the United States and Britain betrayers and publishing leadets agitated and frantic".

The US Defense Secretary, William Cohen, said that Saddam "is lashing out verbally, rhetorically, against the Saudis, against the Egyptians, against the Kuwaitis". He said people and its institutions this "would seem to indicate through receiving agents and that he is certainly more

## Britons 'forced to sign confessions' in Yemen

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE AND ERIC WATKINS

ALL FIVE Britons being held in Luton, and Mohsin Ghalain, Yemen over allegations of a bomb plot have been forced to to a bomb plot. But he did consign confessions, their families said vesterday. A spokesman for the fami-

lies, Rashad Yaqoob, told a openly promotes the overthrow press conference he had received the information from an unidentified source in

The Foreign Office was last night unable to confirm the reports, as the British consul in Yemen has been allowed only a the encouraging messages I brief visit to four of the men. The fifth is a dual citizen and considered a Yemeni national by the authorities.

The lawyer representing the men in Yemen has not been able to meet his clients despite having a written order allowing

him to do so. The developments come amid mounting speculation that the three Yemeni gunmen arrested for the kidnap of 16 Western tourists last month are due to stand trial within the

Mr Yaqoob denied the five

Nasser Harbra, 26, Samad Ahmed, 21, all from Birmingham, Ghulam Hussein, 25, from 18, from London – were linked firm that Mr Ghalain was the stepson of Abu Hamza, an imam based in London who of the Yemeni state The fury of the families con-

trasted sharply with the experience of Katherine Brooke, wife of John Brooke, kidnapped by Yemeni tribesmen last week. "I am overwhelmed by all

have received from the public and for the tremendous help of the Foreign Office and the support of the local police," she said

Mr Brooke has told his company by telephone that he is being well treated by the tribes-

The families of the five Britons in custody said the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, had failed to contact them since their relatives' arrest before Christmas.

Questions about possible links with Sheikh Hamza and Britons - Shahid Butt, 33, Malik his group, the Supporters of

IN BRIEF

Cape Town buries Blair protester

THOUSANDS OF mourners marched through Cape Town's townships yesterday to bury a man who died after being hit in the head by a plastic bullet during protests last Friday against Tony Blair's visit. Yussuf Jacobs, 22, was hit during a demonstration over the air strikes on Iraq.

Gang on trial over 17 poisonings

Saint Petersburg over the murders of 17 elderly people

who were tricked into handing over their flats and then

poisoned. The Tikhonov gang are believed to have preyed on poorer pensioners who often sell or swap their flats.

Germans can buy 'clean' car fuel

THE FIRST filling station to sell liquid hydrogen as car fuel

opened in Germany yesterday. Deutsche Shell, which

vironmentalists doubt that it has many green benefits.

launched the fuel in Hamburg said it was three times as

potent as petrol and water was its only waste product. En-

FIFTEEN MEMBERS of a gang went on trial yesterday in



Rashad Yaqoob: 'Five not linked to a bomb plot'

Shariah, brought angry shouts from the floor, but Monica Davis, wife of Ghulam Hussein, said she had very little knowledge of the cleric.

"I don't know much about him or his group, but I have done my own research and if there were any links with him and terrorism he would have been shut down by the CIA or MI5." she said.

The families warned there would be blood on the streets if any of the men were executed by the Yemenis.

The Yemeni lawyer acting for his own clients.

the men, Badr Basunaid, said yesterday the police were still refusing him access to his clients, despite obtaining written permission from the Chief Prosecutor of Aden.

"I have no access, it is impossible for me to do my job properly," he said. "There is no reason why I should not have access, but it means that things are now going very slowly." Yesterday Foreign Office

sources said they were investigating reports that the trial might start within 48 hours of three men arrested by security forces after a shoot-out with kidnappers. The hostage-taking led to the murder of three British tourists.

While there are other reports that the trial will not begin until the end of Ramadan – likely to be 18 or 19 January the British ambassador in Yemen, Vic Henderson, dispatched his vice-consul from the capital, Sanaa, to Aden yes-

terday to investigate the claims. Mr Basunaid expressed concern over the possibility of such a trial saying that those defendants might have been forced to make claims against

Second Disney park for Paris

in Paris

DISNEYLAND Paris is ex- By JOHN LICHFIELD pected soon to build a second theme park - similar to Universal Studios' park in Florida. Plans for a £450m movie theme park have been tabled by Euro Disney and a favourable decision is expected shortly by local councils east of Paris.

The new park, part of the original plans for the site, should be open for the 10th anniversary of Disneyland Paris on 12 April 2002.

velopment - Val d'Europe, a new town with 1,600 homes, a shopping centre, light industry

and 30,000 square metres of offices – is being built. The president of the syndicate of five local councils in the

area, Charles Boetto, said negotiations on the new theme park were well advanced and an announcement could be expected soon. More than 2,000 The second phase of the dejobs would be created.



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## Flynt's revelations on Congress a flop

LARRY FLYNT, the publisher of BY ANDREW MARSHALL Hustler magazine, promised to in Washington deliver devastating revelations about the Congressmen who were trying to nail President Bill Clinton for perjury. His first effort, however, has been

something of a damp squib. Mr Flynt offered up to a million dollars for tales of the great a very right-wing Republican and the good at their worst. He from Georgia, who had been dehad been ready to release a report on Bob Livingston, the Republican Speaker-designate Mr Barr is also one of the manof the House of Representatives. but then a Washington newsletter beat him to the draw. in the Senate.

Mr Livingston had had a series of affairs, which did not go down well with the Republican party. He resigned, to Mr Flynt's evident disappointment, after heavy pressure from his own

Great speculation had built up over the next target. In a televised press conference yesterday, Mr Flynt released the next faithful to his wife, according to

instalment in what will become the Flynt Report, a publication that lifts the lid on politicians'

private lives.

certainly suggestive: Bob Barr, manding the President's impeachment for well over a year. agers who will run the impeachment trial of the President

During divorce proceedings against his second wife, Gail Vogel Barr, Mr Barr had refused to answer questions about his liaisons with the woman who would become his third wife, Mr Flynt said. He had used a section of state law that is similar to the Fifth Amendment when asked whether he had been

court transcripts. Ms Barr also told the Flynt investigators that her husband - a sworn opponent of abortion - took her to have an abortion while they were married, in 1983.

"He drove ber to the clinic, be The name in the frame was picked her up afterward. He paid for the abortion," said Mr Flynt. Mr Barr put out a statement saying that he had "never suggested, urged, forced or encouraged anyone to have an abortion". Partly because it had been so

heavily hyped in advance, and partly because it was less than spectacular, the first part of the Fignt report failed to galvanise much press reaction.

The mainstream media has also been sniffy about the whole affair, since it regards Mr Flynt as simply a pornographer. The Washington Post relegated the story to page seven, and it was written by the paper's media correspondent, not one of the political staff. The US broadsheet press traditionally treats its politicians with great deference.

Yet there is something of an irony in the story. The point of the revelations was to show Mr Barr as a hypocrite, who defends family values while marrying three times - not to tell lurid tales of his sexual affairs. There is nothing salacious about the report, certainly much less than the Starr report into President Clinton. It was entirely appropriate to focus on whether Mr Barr had told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, since that is what is at issue with President Clinton.

Mr Flynt says he has a bigger fish to fry, though as he failed to garner the headlines with his first report, it remains to be seen what he can do now. His next expose will include a videotape of a politician with a woman who is not his wife, and there is more



President Bill Clinton dances with Amanda Fernandez, wife of Argentina's minister of economy and public services, during a dinner at the White House to mark the state visit by Carlos Menem, President of Argentina

Reuters

Everyday tale

of the missing car syndrome

**AMERICAN TIMES** CENTURY CITY SHOPPING CENTRE, LA

WE HAVE all been there. away car in the football-Somewhere in the bowels of the underground car park at Century City Shopping Center in west Los Angeles, a woman with shoulder-length blond hair walks into the parking office looking agitated. "I can't find my car!" she tells the duty officer. "I came in from Constitution Avenue, turned left and parked almost straight away, but the thing just isn't there any

The duty officer looks calm. "You're one floor too high. My colleague will show her to an electric golf cart for

with her vehicle. This car park employs a special team of officials and security guards, dedicated way back to their cars - one of the many extremes of urban living with Los Angeles throws up.

"People are in a hurry or have their mind on something else, and all of a sudden they can't remember whether they are in Red Bay 3D or Green Bay 5F," explains Linda Frost, marketing manager for Century City, near Beverly Hills. "They are all convinced they are stupid, but we tell them it happens all the

"We ask them how they drove in, how far they drove, that sort of thing. If that doesn't work, we ask them where they went shopping. whether their first stop was Macy's, or Crate and Barrel, or an ice-cream. The trick is to keep calm."

Walk around a large Los Angeles car park - this shopping centre's holds 3,000 cars, and some can take two or three times that number ~ and at regular intervals you will find sad figures staring quizzically into the middle distance and muttering words to the effect of: "I could have sworn that was the pink wall I noticed as I was lock-

only can people not remember where their car is, they frequently cannot recall what colour it is - a symptom, no doubt, of that other LA phenomenon, multiple-vehicle households.

The Missing Car syndrome will be familiar to viewers of Quentin Tarantino's latest movie, Jackie Brown, in which two lowlifes played by Robert De Niro and Bridget Fonda run out of a giant LA mall supposedly with a bag full of loot only to find themselves utterly incapable of locating the getstadium sized open-air lot.

It's tempting to take the patronising view that only ditsy southern Californian suburbanites could be so dumb as to forget where they left the car. But even the most educated Angelenos are prone to the syndrome. The labyrinthine underground complex beneath UCLA, the city's main university, has one of the highest lost-car casualty rates. As do a number of the large cinema complexes where critics and honoured guests are invited to you," he says and escorts preview screenings of forthcoming movies.

screening of Saving Private Ryan, which took place a few months ago right opposite the Century City shopping to helping shoppers find their centre, one prominent LA journalist was so shaken by



there next to a blue one

the film's battle scenes that the only way he could find his car afterwards was to wait for the rest of the audience to drive out of the underground car park and trek forlornly from floor to floor, scanning the few remaining vehicles.

There are technicians known as "parking lot scientists" who spend their lives trying to take the forbidding edge off vast underground or high-rise structures. The Westside Pavilion, not far from Century City, uses flower names rather than According to Ms Frost, not colour codes. Disneyland in Anaheim has a Mickey Zone,

a Minnie Zone and so on. In the beach city of Santa Monica, the authorities had the brainwave of building a series of smaller, more manageable multi-storey car parks around the mall and open-air promenade. But that approach has another, equally dangerous drawback. People might remember where inside the car park they parked; the problem is they frequently can't remember in which particular car park they parked.

ANDREW GUMBEL

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IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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## BUSINESS

#### BRIEFING

#### BA links with Japanese carrier

BRITISH AIRWAYS and Japan Airlines will today unveil a wide-ranging link-up bringing together the two biggest carriers in Europe and Asia. BA and JAL are to form a marketing alliance that will enable the two airlines to codeshare, link their frequent-flyer programmes and share airport facilities.

The agreement could be a prelude to JAL becoming a full member of the Oneworld alliance BA forged with four other international carriers last year. The aim of the BA-JAL link-up is to boost passengers and revenues at a time when air travel is slowing down.

#### Deep recession 'unlikely' EDDIE GEORGE (left),



Governor of the Bank of England, said last night that the Bank's next economic forecasts, due out in early February, were unlikely to show the UK slipping into deep recession. He told the Institute of Manufacturing: 'Frankly, I'd be surprised if our central projection were to suggest that the economy as a whole was falling into steep or

However, Mr George warned that the global economic slowdown could mean more pain for manufacturers in Britain. He stressed the Monetary Policy Committee would not hesitate to cut interest rates again if it believed inflation was likely to fall below the target.

#### Sears to sell credit card arm

SEARS IS expected to announce today the sale of its instore credit card subsidiary. Creation Financial Services, in a deal expected to be worth £120m. The buyer is thought to be a financial institution. Analysts said a sale could help the retailing and home shopping group dissuade shareholders from agreeing to another bid from Philip Green, whose businesses include the Mark One and Owen

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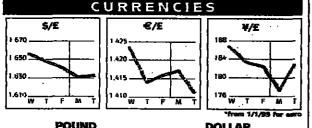
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Brazil Bovespa	5944.67	457.74	-7.15	12339.14	4575.69	9.99					
Belgium Bel20	3496.83	-43.47	-1.23	3713,21	2357.78	1.87					
Amsterdam Exch	536.24	-9.53	-1.75	600,65	366.58	1.83					
France CAC 40	4100.70	-101.20	-2.41	4404.94	2809.73	1.97					
Milan MIB30	35801.00	-932.00	2.54	39170.00	24175.00	1.13					
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Malaysia (ringgits)

Italy (lira)

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Australia (\$)	2.4623	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14,4
Austria (schillings)	18.88	Netherlands (guliders)	3.031
Belgium (francs)	55.52	New Zealand (\$)	2.859
Canada (\$)	2.3871	Norway (krone)	11.8
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7966	Portugai (escudos)	274.6
Denmark (krone)	10.30	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.920
Finland (markka)	8.2082	Singapore (S)	2.607
France (francs)	9.0371	Spain (pesetas)	228.8
Germany (marks)	2.7035	South Africa (rands)	9.347
Greece (drachma)	446.81	Sweden (krone)	12.5
Hong Kong (5)	12.21	Switzerland (francs)	2.219
ireland (punts)	1.0817	Thailand (bahts)	54.
Indian (rupees)	62.10	Turkey (Ilrasi)	50632

USA (\$)

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

1.5876

6.1262

2678

179.40

5.9222

## Allied Domecq profits warning rocks market

THERE WAS fresh evidence of BY NIGEL COPE a downturn in consumer spending yesterday when Allied Domeco, the spirits and pubs group, issued a profits warning due to a poor performance in its pubs division.

The group, whose interests span Beefeater gin, Baskin Robbins ice cream and the Big Steak pub chain, cited "eroding consumer confidence", which it said had intensified since last summer. It said the downturn was particular marked over the Christmas period with drinks sales falling, although food sales had held up.

The warning knocked 14 per cent per cent from Allied's share price, prompting a raft of profit downgrades from brokers and depressing share prices

Associate City Editor

elsewhere in the pubs and brewing sector. Shares in Bass and Scottish & Newcastle fell sharply, while Whitbread closed lower ahead of a trading update

What we are seeing is some of pubs into places to have a meal," said John Wakeley, analvst at Lehman Brothers. "Restaurants are much more cyclically sensitive ... and clearly a large part of the UK is soffering in terms of consumer confidence."

There was more bad news elsewhere in the sector, where the Old English Pub company announced that it had become

a corporate victim of the flu out- brand names such as Firkin, in Mexico has been difficult due break sweeping Britain. The group, which operates "rustic" inns with accommodation, partly blamed the outbreak for a 2.9 per cent fall in like-for-like sales over Christmas. "We were hit by the epidemic, which resulted in several cancellations over Christmas and New Year," the of the dark side of the change company said. Trading was also affected by a move away from alcoholic beverages towards

> extended boliday period. The Allied warning rocked a sector which had appeared to be recovering after upbeat statements last week from pub groups JD Wetherspoon and Yates Brothers Wine Lodges.

Allied's pubs operate under

soft drinks, it said. Corporate

bookings were down over the

sales had held up well in pubs such as the Big Steak outlets, but drinks sales had weakened and customer numbers fallen. The company said: "Early evidence shows that our performance has mirrored the market trend in the pre-Christmas months. Sales were lower over the Christmas period, and

Scruffy Murphy's, Mr Q's and

Big Steak. The group said food

fore be lower as a result." There was better news in spirits, where Allied said there had been some growth in major markets in the first four months of its financial year. In Europe, Ballantines scotch whisky volumes grew strongly and

Beefeater gin did well. Trading

first-half pub profits will there-

to duty rises, illegal bottling and tough economic conditions.

The group defended its decision to sell Cantrell & Cochrane, its Irish cider and soft drinks business, which was sold to BC Partners Venture Capital for £519m. Allied, whose talks with Sea-

gram of Canada to create a wine and spirits alliance foundered last year, further hinted that talks between the two - and others in the industry - could be revived. There is little doubt in our

minds that a combination with another group, with the right management team, would undoubtedly result in substantial synergies," said Sir Christopher Hogg, the chairman.

## Arjo chief quits in radical revamp

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

ARJO WIGGINS Appleton yesterday announced a radical shakeup that saw the troubled paper maker part company with its chief executive, split into three divisions and hint that it would be willing to entertain offers for two of them.

Under the restructuring, which is designed to revive the group's flagging share price, Arjo will abandon its geographical structure in favour of three industrial divisions organised around its carbonless and thermal paper, speciality and coated paper, and merchanting divisions.

Arjo said that as a result it no longer needed a group chief executive, so Phillippe Beylier had agreed to step down. Mr Beylier, chief executive for less than two years, was on a twoyear contract and is expected to receive a payoff of more than £800,000. Ken Minton, the non-executive chairman who designed the new structure, will take on a full-time role.

Meanwhile Luca Paveri-Fontana, a non-executive director, will also take on an executive role in a sign that Ifil, the Italian holding company controlled by the Agnelli family that is Arjo's main shareholder, is taking a more active role in the company.

"We must achieve value for shareholders," Mr Minton said. "To achieve this we must organise the business in a different way."

The restructuring will see Arjo combine its operations in Europe and the United States to create two international paper divisions. Arjo said the merger would cut costs, although it gave no indication of savings or job losses.

Mr Minton hinted that in the long term Arjo wanted to concentrate on its speciality and coated papers division. Meanwhile the carbonless and thermal unit, which supplies credit-card slips and fax paper, could be sold. "We will equip ourselves to take the value from that business sooner or later." Mr Minton said. He also hinted that the merchanting division could be merged with

City observers said the shakeup would allow investors better to judge the value of Arjo's component parts. The announcement was greeted with a 5.5p rise in the share price to 115p.Six months ago the shares were at 254p.

Mr Minton said the integration between the various parts of the company had been "somewhat limited" since 1990, when Arjo was created by the merger of French, British and American paper makers. But he stressed that the business would now be run on an international basis and that each division would have to justify new investments by showing they could earn a return in excess of their cost of capital.



as group chief executive

Prince Ado Ibrahim (left), new owner of 25 per cent of the Arrows grand prix team, pictured with Tom Walkinshaw

## Arrows team driven to £110m sellout

THE Arrows grand prix motor racing team was sold yesterday to a consortium led by a German bank and a Nigerian prince in a deal valuing the busi-

ness at £110m. Tom Walkinshaw, a former engineering director for Benetton who took control of the Arrows team in 1996, has formed a new partnership with Morgan Grenfell Private Equity (part of

the yen yesterday, recording its largest one-day gain in five

years, after the Bank of Japan

had been buying dollars and

selling yen in an attempt to curb

the strength of the Japanese

currency. Japan's government

is concerned that the recent rise

in the yen - which hit a 28-

month high on Monday - could

undermine the competitiveness

BoJ had bought dollars in the

of leading manufacturers.

exchange markets.

spent up to £3bn in the foreign

Traders said the central bank

THE DOLLAR soared against By LEA PATERSON

This was the first time the rapid rise against the dollar.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON ian businessman. Prince Malik

Ado Ibrahim. Morgan Grenfell, which bought the Coral bookmakers

chain from Ladbroke for £390m last month, will emerge with a 45 per cent stake in Arrows, while Prince Malik will own a further 25 per cent.

Mr Walkinshaw, who has run Deutsche Bank) and the Niger- Arrows from his TWR group

foreign exchange market since

early 1996. Dealers speculated

that the move had cost the

Japanese authorities between

deny the intervention reports,

but comments by the finance

minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, were

taken as a signal that the Bank

had been active in the financial

markets. Mr Miyazawa said

that "government experts have

taken steps" following the yen's

In early trading, the dollar

The BoJ did not confirm or

based near Oxford, will retain a 25 per cent stake. The remaining 5 per cent has been reserved for management and

This is the second time a City institution has bought into a motor racing team. Late last year the US-based venture capital and fund management group, Warburg Pincus, acquired a 40 per cent stake in the

gain against the yen since 1993,

traders said. The US currency

pared some of its gains later

after Robert Rubin, the US

Treasury Secretary, said the

dollar policy was unchanged. In

early New York trading the dol-

Analysts said several fac-

lar was at 112 yen, up more than

tors lay behind the yen's surge,

including worries about the

impact of the Brazilian crisis on

the US, the reluctance of

Japanese investors to save

money overseas and the large

Japanese current account sur-

3 yen from Monday's close.

Observers said the Arrows deal had been driven by Mr Walkinshaw's need to bring cash into the business. At the end of last season its leading driver. Pedro Diniz, left the team, taking with him a reported £2m in sponsorship. The year before the former world

Prince Malik, 38, is the third

security and allow the Arrows team to remain in Britain. Its champion, Damon Hill, left to

son of a Nigerian tribal king. He ese driver, Toranosuka Takagi

BoJ would be forced to inter-

vene again in coming days.

Michael Lewis at Deutsche

Bank said: "This looks like the

first of many skirmishes

between the Bank of Japan

Avinash Persaud at JP Mor-

gan said: "As long as investors

exchange rates. I see the dol-

lar testing 105 yen again."

and the currency markets."

leading driver this season is the Finn, Mika Salo, and there is speculation it will sign a Japan-

Japan buys dollars to curb yen recorded its largest one-day plus. Experts predicted the survey of fund managers predicting the new currency would 1999. According to the survey by

holds licences to operate mobile

phone and Internet services in

Nigeria and recently brokered

the sale of Lotus cars of Nor-

wich to Proton of Malaysia. Mr Walkinshaw said the buy-

out would provide financial

strongest currency this year. Three-quarters expect sterling to weaken against the euro. Trevor Greetham, Merrill

Merrill Lynch/Gallup, 81 per

cent of fund managers expect

the euro to be the world's

shy away from the markets, Lynch global strategist, said: current accounts will drive Fund managers love the euro because the alternatives don't The euro benefited from the look good. The dollar is weak, BoJ intervention, rising 4 yen Japan has structural problems and falling base rates reduce Beylier: Will step down in New York trade. The surge in the euro coincided with a sterling's attractiveness".

#### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

#### LONDON

FOOTSIE SWUNG from a 55.3-point gain to a 51.4 loss to end at 6,033.6 in a busy day, with turnover topping 1.2 billion shares. Supporting indices suffered single-

figure falls. Profit warnings did much of the damage, with Allied Domecq plunging 81.5p to 516p and pulling Bass down 74.5p to 805p. ICI bucked the trend, gaining 27p to 513.5p on talk of American interest. Dixons, ahead of today's results, jumped 33p to a 914p peak. Derek Pain, page 19

#### NEW YORK

US STOCKS fell for the first time in eight days, amid profit-taking and continued worries about the Brazilan economy. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was trading sharply lower in afternoon trading, down 83 points at

One trader said the fall was a "necessary pull-back" in the Dow, which has posted record gains since the beginning of the year. The Nasdaq index also fell.

trading down just over 2 per cent

at 2334.21 at lunchtime.

#### **⊚** |TOKYO

LEADING JAPANESE shares closed little changed yesterday after the rebound in the dollar eased concerns about the competitiveness of Japanese exporters.

The Nikkei 225 index closed down 7.51 points, or 0.6 per cent. Dealers attributed the mini-recovery to direct intervention by the Bank of Japan in the foreign exchange markets. The Bank of Japan bought dollars and sold yen in an attempt to curb the strength of the Japanese currency.

#### FRANKFURT

GERMAN STOCKS edged 1 per cent lower over concern that banks could be hit by exposure to both the troubled Brazilian economy and the failed Chinese trust GITIC. The benchmark Dax Xetra closed down 70.34 points at 5,196.13, with financial stocks extending Monday's loss-

Shares in Dresdner Bank, Germany's third largest, dropped 2.10 euros to 39.50. while Deutsche Bank shed 1.68 euros to close at 53.92.

#### SAO PAULO

BRAZILIAN SHARES plunged yet again yesterday, with the stock market close to circuit-breaker limits as concerns persisted over the decision of the state of Minas Gerais to default on its debt to the

government In early afternoon trade, the Bovespa index was down 8.9 per cent at 5,835 points, and reassur-ing comments from Washington did little to halt the persistent speculation over a possible devaluation of the Brazilian real.

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THE INDEPENDENT Section 13 January 1999

> Why yen's revival should concern us IT IS a touch ironic that the currency markets yesterday responded to calls from Keizo Obuchi, Japan's Prime Minister, for stability in exchange rates by delivering the biggest one day rise in the dollar against the yen in five years. It was what the Bank of Japan wanted when it spent billions on intervention in an attempt to halt the painful rise in the yen since last summer. But is this really what is meant by THE PROPERTY LAND stability? Hardly.

Over the past four years the ven/dollar exchange rate has been all over the place. During the summer the yen was so weak that Tokyo actually became an affordable holiday destination. Since then it has risen by nearly a third in value which is far too much for struggling Japanese exporters.

As that swing followed the loss of about four-fifths of its value between April 1995 and last summer. however, you can see why ven stability and even exchange rate "target zones", as mcoted by Mr Obuchi on his tour of Europe this week. would appeal to the Japanese government. These are damaging swings even for the strongest economy, and Japan certainly is not it ought to be given the fundamenthat. Why is it happening, and what tal weakness of the Japanese econ-



#### OUTLOOK

is its importance to us here in the West? Curiously, given how badly a strong yen would damage economic recovery in Japan, the Japanese authorities have themselves been encouraging the yen's recent rise. again in the name of stability. Eisuke Sakakibara - "Mr Yen" - has been talking the dollar down in recent weeks because it had earlier looked as though the ven was falling too far,

Even so most economists would have urged the government to stick with a weak ven policy. The trough of 146.52 yen to the dollar is more or less where currency experts think

is that the Japanese have begun repatriating money from the US. There are two reasons why they might do this. The greatest chunk of Japanese overseas indirect investment is in US Treasuries, which have had a terrific bull run in recent years. Plainly this cannot go on for ever, and as doubts grow about the sustainability of the US economic miracle, as well as the whopping current account deficit America runs with the rest of the world, now seems as good a time as any to sell.

Secondly, long-bond yields have

doubled in Japan in the past four months. They are still tiny by Western standards, but if product and asset prices are falling, as they are in Japan, Japanese government bonds certainly begin to look much better value than they did. A flight of capital to the perceived safety of the Japanese motherland spells big trouble for the US, which seems to be living more and more on borrowed foreign money. The arrival of the euro as an alternative reserve currency further turns up the heat.

More worrying still, the US current account deficit is growing like topsy. This year it could be heading

omy. So why has the trend been back for a mind-boggling \$300bn, equiv- is a text-book example of how mergto high ground? One possible cause alent to 4 per cent of GDP. Basic laws of economics dictate that the currency must fall to compensate for this, and this indeed is what is beginning to happen. Unfortunately, dollar weakness could also retrigger inflationary pressures within the US economy, and that might bring the boom quite quickly to an end.

What's bad for Japan may there fore be had for the US too. But even the mighty Alan Greenspan cannot buck the market for ever, and while some of the more apocalyptic predictions of the consequences of these trends look a tad exaggerated, we are obviously heading for quite dangerous waters.

#### Arjo Wiggins

CALLING THE bottom on a sinking share price can be a hazardous business. When a company in trouble protests that things cannot possibly get any worse, they usually can - and do. But Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the paper maker, which yesterday announced plans to split itself into three divisions, could just be an exception to the rule.

Not that the omens are good. Arjo

ers - especially cross-border ones - go wrong. The trouble started in 1990 when Wiggins Teape of the UK joined forces with its American rival Appleton, both of which had been spun off from BAT in its successful

A year later they were joined by a French partner, Arjo Mari-Prioux. But the businesses were never integrated properly and continued to be run as fieldoms inside a loose structure. So when paper prices bombed, Arjo was left with a much higher cost base than its rivals.

from Sir Jimmy Goldsmith.

As a result, this menage a trois has destroyed shareholder value on an epic scale. Since the original merger, £1.5bn of capital has been sunk into a business which is now capitalised at just £919m. This decade, Ario shares have lagged the rest of the market by a staggering 80 per cent

So can Ken Minton succeed where others have failed? The former chief executive of Laporte, the chemicals group, is reorganising Arjo into three divisions in a belated attempt to squeeze out some cost savings. The declining carbonless and thermal division, which makes

INTERNET PORTALS' SHARES SOAR

400

350

1996

INFOSEEK

EXCITE

paper used in credit card slips and fax machines, and the merchanting unit will then probably be sold, leaving Arjo to concentrate on premium fine, speciality and coated papers. Chief executive Phillippe Beylier is surplus to requirements and walks attempt to fend off a breakup bid out with the customary payoff.

Arjo's accounts will be stained with plenty of red ink before the process is complete. But if Mr Minton succeeds, the potential upside is big - analysts reckon a buyer would be willing to pay £600m for the merchanting division alone. Regardless of the history, investors may find it worth their while to take another look at Ario.

#### Vickers/Giat

THE BARON from Brussels has pulled off another deal, but will it be enough to get Vickers firing on all cylinders? The agreement to put the group's Challenger tanks business into a joint venture with French tank manufacturer Giat shows that Vickers's chief executive is determined not to be outmanoeuvred as Europe's defence industry consoli-

But has Baron Paul Buysse

picked the best partner? Giat is still state-owned, which means that it is almost certainly not as fighting fit as Vickers's defence business. What's more, the two companies' manufacturing facilities have carefully been left out of the new joint venture, thus depriving them of the opportunity to take out big lumps of cost.

On the other hand, Vickers and Giat will collaborate on the development of new products, which presumably means the next main battle tank for Europe's armies. Meanwhile the Challenger and Giat's Leclerc tank will continue to fight it out for what export orders there are in far-off places where they are still buying such things. As the market now ascribes virtually no value to Vickers defence business - indeed the entire group is not capitalised at much more than its existing cash pile - the Giat deal cannot hurt.

What Vickers really needs is to persuade more of Europe's 20 land-fighting vehicle manufacturers to come to the party. Or better still, an order or two. It is in there battling for tank deals in Greece. South Africa and Qatar Just one order would lift the shares. Unfortunately, Leclerc is fighting for exactly the

#### News Analysis: US Internet stocks are soaring as investors seek the new Microsoft



in 1994 Yahoo! founders Jerry Yang (back left) and David Filo (front right) were just Net nerds. They, along with (left to right) Tim Koogie, Gary Valenzuela and Jeff Mallett, now run a \$41bn market cap behemoth

## From Net nerds to kings of the Nasdaq

SO IT is fashionable these days BY DAVID USBORNE to buy Internet stocks. You know this because they keep rising at rates that beggar belief. Witness the recent gravity-defying ascent of the technologyladen Nasdaq index in New alone to 147 million. York, only interrupted yesterday by a bout of profit taking.

It is also fashionable to warn that the Internet is a bubble the latest weather and travel reready to burst and that wise in- ports, and lonely hearts fovestors will keep their distance. But is that right? Are we in a midst of a revolution so impor- 16 per cent of US car buyers tant that most of us just have now go online to check and trouble grasping it?

tion of the new industrial much longer? order". This smacks of hyperbole, but there are investors out was never more vividly demonthere who believe it. What they see is a crossing of a great divide, where the internet is no Consider the story of Ebay, an longer the domain of the digerati, but is suddenly becoming mainstream. The Internet, September. Eday is only one of in other words, has transcend- a myriad newly-listed Internet ed being a toy for nerds and companies to have seen its become the high street of the new millennium.

companies leading the Nas- cent. At that rate, the compadaq charge have yet to make ny promises to deliver a 1 milone cent of profit, such as Amazon.com, the red-hot online investment. book and CD retailer. If consumers are about to plunge en extraordinary when you conmasse into the digital universe, sider how it started. Ebay the road is almost unimaginable. With stakes so high, battie has been engaged between the players who want to har- expand her collection of Pez dis-

to see the signs of this explo- yar's salary last year was a main competitors-Lycos, Exsion. According to Internation-modest \$67,446, but the com-cite and Infoseek-Yahoo! offers al Data Corp, a computer pany gave him stock worth - consumers a single web page research group, the number of wait for it - \$4bn. The market from which they can begin their open-ended".

in New York

people using the World Wide Web in the US alone is set to soar by 28 per cent this year

People log on for many reasons. There are chat rooms to visit, information pages giving rums. Most dazzling, however, is the rush to the Web to shop: compare bargains. True, many "The Internet," Fortune still go to a showroom to make magazine says, "is the founda- their final purchase, but for how

The surge in online retailing strated than during this last Christmas gift-buying season. online auction house, which listed as a public company last value climb to the stratosphere very quickly. In four months its Never mind, then, that some shares have soared 1,519 per lion per cent annual return on

> It is a tale that is even more it taking. On Monday Yahoo! founder Pierre Omidyar, 31, had the idea of offering auctions in the Internet after searching for a way to help his giriffiend

value of Ebay is now six times 
Internet journeys. They offer that of its non-virtual auction direct, one-click, access to the house great-uncle, Sotheby's. Such value comparisons

offer another illustration of the fabulousness - or the insanity of the investor rush to these companies. Amazon.com gained no fewer than 1 million new customers in the run-up to Christmas. If it operated in bricks-and-mortar shops it would have had to have shelves it well understands this, Disney extending 101 miles to accommodate the books and CDs its own Called GO Network, it sold at Christmas. Its market capitalisation now stands at \$29bn, compared with \$16.5bn for Sears, the department store that has been in the retail busi-

ness for more than a century. Or how about Yahoo!, the Internet directory company that went public in April 1996? Since then its shares have risen 95-fold to give the company a wonder advertisers are beginmarket value of \$40.9bn, larger even than such blue-chip monoliths as Boeing and Xerox. It another Web research group, was expectations of better-thanexpected earnings due out from Yahoo! after the close of markets last night that drove the Nasdaq to its seventh consecutive record high on Monday, although the index fell back sharply yesterday amidst prof-

shares rose \$701/8 to \$4141/2. Yahoo! is one of four Internet stocks gaining special investor attention because of their status as so-called Internet portals. If controlling traffic in cyberspace is the main prize, ness that traffic and control it. pensers - those cute toys that then it is the portals that have You do not have to search far spit out oblong sweeties. Omid- a head start. Like its three Fund, says: "There are too

most travelled areas of the Net, such as news, personal finance, sports, travel, entertainment, recreation, romance

chat rooms and so forth. Whoever attracts the largest numbers of users to their portal page stands one day to rule the Internet. So far Yahoo! is winning the race. Showing that yesterday launched a portal of is a joint venture with Infoseek, which is 43 per cent Disney-

As the primacy of the portals in cyberspace becomes more obvious so, in turn, does their attractiveness to advertisers and their potential for making profits. With 70 million people hitting Yahoo! every month, no ning to pay attention. According to Jupiter Communications, advertising on the Internet is set to rise from a fairly modest \$940m in the US in 1997 to \$8bn by 2002.

Those pouring money into Yahoo! and other darling stocks of the Internet are all looking for the new Microsoft. Those holding back are wondering how long these outlandish val-

uations can last. Who knows? There is one other factor in favour of the bubble growing before it bursts. There are simply not enough Internet stocks out there. Paul Cook, manager in New York of the Munder Net many people who want to own these stocks and not enough to go around. The opportunity is

#### Halifax bids to halt loan slump

HALIFAX YESTERDAY made a fresh attempt to rebuild its share of the mortgage lending market by issuing its lowest-ever fixed-rate loans. Customers will now be able to fix rates at 4.45 per cent for two

Halifax, which last year saw its share of the mortgage market shrink to 6 per cent, less than one-third of its usual level, is also offering to fix loans at 6.25 per cent for as long as 10

The move will help prevent other lenders in order to take advantage of cut-price deals made possible by unprecedented falls in long-term intermade up 25 per cent of the mortgage market, compared By Andrew Verity

While Halifax is not offering the cheapest deal in the market, it is competing with a rate of 3.99 per cent on offer from Alliance & Leicester. The lowest two-year fix is 2.99 per cent from West Bromwich building

The cheapest deals are only made possible by hefty "trailer penalties" - redemption penalties that tie customers in for vears after the fixed-rate period is over. The typical redemption customers from defecting to penalty is 5 per cent of the sum

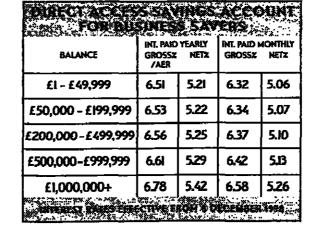
Without the trailer penalties, Halifax charges 6.2 per cent for a two-year fix. West est rates. In 1998, remortgages Bromwich offers 4.99 per cent but customers must pay a sizeable application fee of 0.35

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£50,000 - £199,999	6.03	4.82	5.87	4.70
£200,000 - £499,999	6.06	4.85	5.90	<i>4.7</i> 2
£500,000-£999,999	6.10	4.88	5.94	4.75
£1,000,000+	6.20	4.96	6.03	4.82
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MIDWEEK MONEY - EVERY WEDNESDAY REVIEW

YOUR MONEY - EVERY SATURDAY

PERSONAL FINANCE - EVERY SUNDAY - WITH SPORT AND BUSINESS

SUNDAY - WITH SPORT AND BUSINESS

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| Cocore Polic | 98.52 | 102.70 | -1.90 | 2.45 | 5.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.

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∂mogress | Wordende Growth | S8.55 | 61 92 | -0.17 | 0.34 | 4.95 | 4.25 | 1.54 | 1.56 | 1.54 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.56 |

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## Greeting cards are just a pawn in the banana game

PRODUCERS OF greeting cards By ANDREW VERITY yesterday sent an unpleasant message to the US and the Eutrade dispute.

The Greeting Cards Associ-

the US wants to slap a 100 per ropean Union, branding them cent import duty on the cards "bananas" for using the indus- as a weapon in the dispute try as a pawn in the latest over banana import duties.

Ray Cousins, chairman of the association, said: "We are duty on other European Union

are very concerned because it biscuits, bath oils, candles, jobs could be at risk. is now clear this could become lithographs, bed linen, cartons, bogged down in bureaucracy wallets, handbags and cheese. and go on for months."

The US is also targeting the would start on 3 March. ation warned that thousands of merely a pawn in a much big-imports worth half a billion jobs were threatened because gergame. Greetings cards has euros (£700m). Industries dustry, 700 jobs may be at risk

Under US proposals, sanctions

UK industries would be hardest hit. In the cashmere in-

been picked at random - it affected include cashmere in the Scottish borders. The protected imports from ex- the EU's banana regime, a could have been anyone. People sweaters, batteries, plastics, DTI estimates 2,700 British colonies at the expense of US move the US had tried to block. WTO to decide unilaterally that

> The banana war blew up because the US was dissatisfied with a new EU regime for banana imports, introduced on 1 January. The regime was created to answer World Trade Organisation concerns that it its "bananas panel" to rule on at the DTI, said: "It is quite

banana exporters such as Chiquita. The US claims that are illegal because there has plied. This dispute needs to be the regime is still too

restrictive. Yesterday, the WTO's Disputes Settlements Body in Geneva decided to reconvene

been no ruling about them in international law," said a the WTO." spokesman for Sir Leon Brittan, EU trade commissioner

Brian Wilson, trade minister

"We believe the sanctions another member has not comresolved in the framework of

Ironically, the two biggest players in UK greetings cards, Hallmark and Carlton, are US-

## Vickers links with Giat in tank venture

THE RESTRUCTURING OF EU- BY MICHAEL HARRISON rope's fighting vehicles industry took a further step forward esterday after Vickers, makers of the Challenger 2 tank, announced plans to form a joint venture company with the state-owned French tank man-

The alliance will cover sales and marketing, future product main battle tank for orders. lesign and programme man-agement but there are no plans for the time being to include the

Nor does the agreement prevent either Vickers or Giat linking up with other manufacturers of land vehicles in their

respective countries. The Vickers-Giat deal follows an earlier merger between GKN and Alvis. Since then about whether Vickers would join the GKN-Alvis alliance or seak a partner in Europe or the

United States, A memorandum of intent signed yesterday paves the way for Vickers and Giat to form a joint venture company. But they will continue to operate separately in countries where the Challenger 2 is competing with the Giat's Lerderc

The two companies are vying for an order from Greece worth up to £1.5bn for 250 tanks. There two companies' manufacturing are also competitions taking place to supply South Africa and Qatar with tanks, orders worth £350m and £250m respectively.

Jacques Loppion, chief executive of Giat Industries, said the agreement would accelerate the consolidation process taking place in Europe. There the land vehicles businesses of are 20 manufacturers of land defence vehicles whereas most there has been speculation analysts believe the market can only support five or six in

The agreement is the second

COMPANY RESULTS

Pre-tax (£)

major deal pulled off by Baron Paul Buysse, the new chief executive of Vickers.

Last month he announced the £300m acquisition of Ulstein, a Norwegian marine propulsion company. Baron Buysse said the Giat deal would unlock significant benefits for the two parties.

Giat lost Ffr2.85bn in 1997 on sales of Ffr6.7on francs after putting aside large provisions to pay for the rationalisation of its manufacturing facilities in

In the last three years it has shed 1,600 jobs. Mr Joppion, the first private sector executive to run Giat, was brought in to steer it towards partial privatisation. However, Giat is still not expected to break even until Vickers is also rationalising

its manufacturing capacity with the closure of the Leeds tank factory with the loss of 600

> 26.03.99 30.04.99

5.6p (5.1p) 5.80p (5.80p)

Gucci on the catwalk: LVMH, the French luxury brands group, has bought another 9.5 per cent of Gucci, this time from the Milan-based designer Prada, taking its stake in the Italian fashion house to more than 14.5 per cent.

#### US bank tops merger league

MORGAN STANLEY Dean BY ANDREW GARFIELD Witter has become the first American investment bank to top the UK mergers' league tables, confirming the dramatic inroads that big American houses have made into the British market over the past 12

The bank advised on 11 deals worth £19.2bn in 1998 in what was a record-breaking year for UK merger and takeover activity, according to the final annual league table published yesterday by Acquisitions Monthly, the specialist maga-

More than £90bn worth of year, overtaking the record set in 1995 when the merger total reached £67.7bn. In volume terms 1998 was the most active year for deals since 1988.

Schroders, among the dwindling band of independent UKowned houses, came a close second in terms of value of deals done, with Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley's arch-

US rival, taking third place with \$12.4bn to its credit. Lazards, which took the top

slot in 1997, came fourth while

NM Rothschild came ninth. Piers de Montfort, the head of Morgan Stanley's UK advisory business, said yesterday that the firm's position was boosted by its role in a number of high-profile transactions such as the \$45bn BP/Amoco deal, where it advised Amoco, and Commercial Union's £6.8bn

merger with General Accident. The group also advised deals were struck in the UK last Astra, the Swedish pharmaceuticals group, in its recent merger with Zeneca of the UK

Unlike Merrill Lynch and Credit Suisse First Boston, who have both improved their position in the past year, Morgan Stanley has built its UK market position organically rather than by acquiring the existing franchise of an established British merchant bank.

#### First Leisure hints at joint ventures

FIRST LEISURE, the health club stage" and that it was too early and disco operator run by Michael Grade, the former chief executive of Channel 4, yesterday hinted at possible disposals or joint ventures when it said it was "discussing with third parties a number of strategic initiatives", writes Peter Thal

the Stock Exchange, First Leisure could be discussing Leisure said the discussions the sale of its nightchubs or its

to say whether they would result in any agreement.

However, the statement avoided any reference of a takeover, prompting City observers to conclude that First Leisure is not in bid talks. That sentiment was reflected in the shares, which dropped 8p to In a vague announcement to 224p. Analysts said First were at a "very exploratory health and fitness clubs.

#### IN BRIEF

Bassongh (F) & & B Publist

#### Steady progress at Equitas

EQUITAS, the reinsurance vacie set up to run off £15bn of past liabilities at Lloyd's of London, reported steady progress yesterday for the half year to September 30. Liabilities were reduced to £11.5bn after Equitas paid £767m in claims.

#### Euribor trade up

TRADE IN Euribor contracts on Liffe, London's futures exchange, soared yesterday, a development seen as confirmation that the Brussels Euribor, not the London Euro Libor, would become the benchmark money market rate. More than 12,000 Euribor contracts were traded on Liffe, 15 times the typical daily volume, after four big trading houses switched to the new contract. By contrast, only were traded on Liffe.

#### Rentokil buys RENTOKIL INTIIAL

yesterday announced eight acquisitions totalling £37m in cash, which will between them add £49m to annual turnover. They include two textile services companies, Adrett in Germany and the 51 per cent of BTMF in France that is not already owned. It has acquired five smallish security businesses. three in the UK, one in the Netherlands and one in Canada. The final acquisition is the Initial Staffing franchise in Cincmatti.

#### insurance deal

ACE, the Bermuda-based and New York-listed insurance group, has agreed to buy the international and domestic property and casualty insurance businesses of Cigna for \$3.45bn (£2.12bn) in can. The acquisition will be financed partly from cash reserves and partly from new equity, debt and convertible securities. The domestic business includes further claims on Cigna's now discontinued pollution insurance policies.

## A horrid week for Monsieur Beylier

SO *AU REVOIR* then, **Philippe** Beylier, who resigned as chief executive of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the world's biggest maker of fine writing paper.

The Anglo-French maker of fax and fine-art paper is splitting the business into three divisions, each of which will be managed by its own chief executive and board, so Mr Beylier won't be replaced.

Kenneth Minton, a "handson" manager who left the chemicals company Laporte to become Arjo's non-executive chairman in November 1997, will become executive chairman of the overall group.

Mr Beylier was far from the usual image of the French businessman as product of the élite grande écoles. A colleague describes him as "a solid company man born and bred" who built up the French merchanting business of Arjomari-Prioux before it merged with its British rival, Wiggins Teape, and the American company Appleton. The latter businesses were demerged from BAT as part of the strategy to defeat Sir Jimmy Goldsmith's hostile bid for the tobacco giant in 1989.

This hasn't been a good week for the Frenchman. A graduate of Harvard Business School and keen skier, Mr Beylier is also a fan of Stade Français of Paris, one of the strongest rugby union sides in Europe. Stade Français were knocked out of the European Cup on Saturday by unfancied Ulster. At least he won't have to keep commuting from Paris to Arjo's UK office in scenic Basingstoke.

LAURENCE COOKLIN is swapping cheap jewellery for Radio Rentals. Mr Cooklin, 53, is stepping aside as chief executive of UK jewellery at Signet Group, Gerald Ratner's old retail chain, to head up television and radio retailer Thorn.

Signet said it was looking to recruit a successor, but mean- in London, leaving several while chairman James thousand staff to pay more for for Shane O'Riordain, poached their prawn sarnies. The belt-from Robert Fleming, the iniewellery executive committee. tightening move, prompted by

PEOPLE AND **BUSINESS** 

> By John WILLCOCK

Mr Cooklin has been a familiar figure on the retail scene for 30 years. He joined Signet six years ago from the Burton Group, where he was chief executive. He joined the men's suit chain in 1970 and was a close associate of the group's long-time former boss, Ralph

"Five Times a Night" Halpern. Mr Cooklin takes over at an interesting time for Thorn. It demerged from EMI in 1996, but Radio Rentals was hit by damaging litigation in the US.



Laurence Cooklin: Moved from jewellery to radios

sending the shares south. Guy Hands of Nomura pounced in September, taking the group head of products. private for £980m.

eyebrows have often been com- search and planning side when pared by colleagues to those of I joined in 1982," he recalls. Chris de Burgh, the singer/songwriter. Readers house prices for the media, may judge for themselves.

CREDIT SUISSE has removed its subsidy to the staff canteen in its Canary Wharf head office

last year's turmoil in financial markets, has provoked mutters of discontent amongst the investment bank's employees. One employee complained to management, only to be told: "Oh yes, well, at least we're not passing on the cost of the

THE Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, which recently launched a hostile bid for rival Marston Thompson & Evershed only to be met by a "Pac Man" defence in the form of a counterbid, has hired two big hitters to beef up its top exec-

trade sales director after a 20year career with Whithread. where he was for the last couple of years marketing director for Whitbread Inns. Christian Reeve will join

Martin Womack comes in as

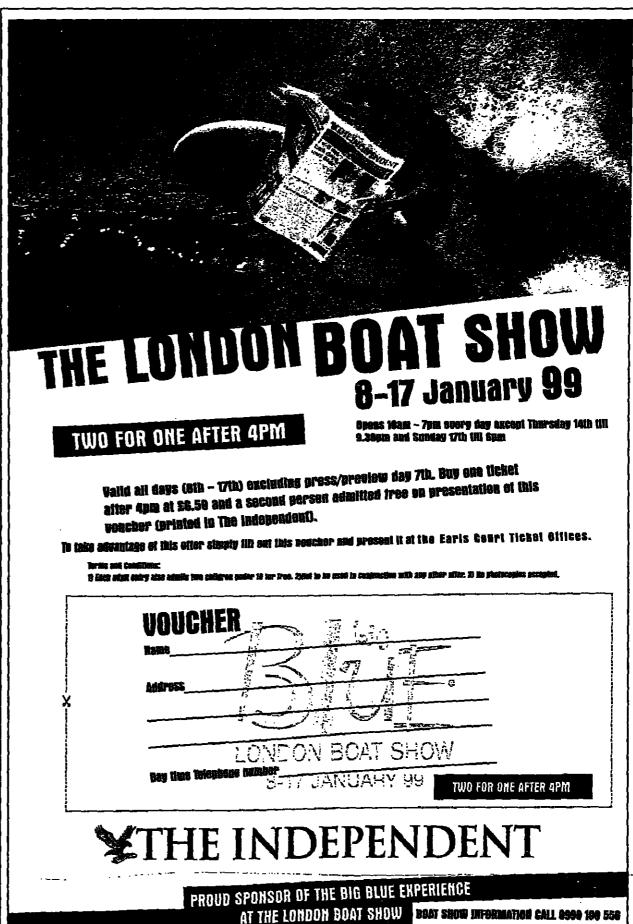
Wolves later this month from JD Wetherspoon, the family pub company where he has been director of retail operations for six

Mr Reeve will become Wolves' director of retail concepts, which include pub "brands" such as Varsity, Tap House and Poachers Pockets.

JAMES CROSBY is ringing the changes at Halifax, where he replaced Mike Blackburn as chief executive on 1 January. Gary Marsh, who has been head of corporate affairs for the past four years, is moving into consumer credit and retail banking, where he will become

"I started out as an econo-Incidentally, Mr Cooklin's mist for Halifax on the re-"Then I started to comment on which led to the communications job. Now they've decided I've got to get my hands dirty. helping to run the business."

- Halifax has created a new corporate communications role



THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 13 January 1999

S2 week High Low Stock Price Cby Yid PyE Cade Sign Low Stock	Price Chy 71d 755 Cude Bugh Low Shock Price Chy 71d 755 Cude Bugh Low Shock Price Chy 71d 755 Cude 148 445 83 93	MAIN MOVERS	52 week  Sigh Law Stock Price Chy Thi P/E Gade Righ Law 1  57 59 Separatur 74,0 00 1.0 3085 318 155	Catalogue 1/911 till 1 61 6 500 174
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THE INDEPENDENT

## Profit warnings take their toll

ANOTHER ROUND of profit warnings eroded stock market confidence. Although corporate action, real and rumoured, should have been strong enough to keep shares on their toes, Footsie ended 51.4 points down at 6,033.6.

Imperial Chemical Industries, once the bellwether of Britain's industrial health, now one of the index's Cinderella constituents, bucked the trend.

The shares enjoyed a late run, climbing 27p to 513.5p, with talk of US interest exciting the market.

At least one leading transatlantic investment house was said to be keen on the shares, prompting speculation that a predatory strike is

ICI has been reshaped, but the exercise has not gone smoothly. Last spring the shares hit 1,244p as the market anticipated a smooth transition from bulk to speciality chemicals. The group has since had a torrid time, with its failure to clinch sales of unwanted operations causing concern about its debt mountain.

It was another busy session, with share turnover topping 1.2 billion. At one time Footsie was up 55.3 but the flow of unsettling trading statements and then a weak

ASK CENTRAL, the latest Kaye family restaurant venture which lifted its chain from 30 to 50 last vear and plans to open another 20 this year, firmed 5p to 372.5p. It enjoyed good festive trading. Interim profits were sharply higher and the market is looking for £3.7m for the year just ended against £2m. Ian Berry at stockbroker Beeson Gregory expects £5.4m for this year.

New York display took their toll. Supporting indices weakened and Government stocks incurred falls of up to 45p. Allied Domecq, the pubs

and spirits group, lead the retreat. The long-time underperforming blue chip once again disappointed its followers as it rolled out a profits warning, blaming poor pub sales and slack demand in Latin America. The shares led Footsie lower with an 81.5p (after 92.5p) fall to 516p.

The Allied shockwaves were felt at Bass, down 74.5p at 805p, and Scottish & Newcastle, 25.5p at 713p.

The Old English Pub Co increased the brewers' droop when it announced disappointing sales, blaming, among other influences, the flu bug. The shares, although



ABN Amro is thought to be holdings its year's profits forecast at £9.1m, fell 48p to 262.5p.

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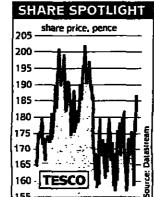
Kingfisher produced a comfortable trading statement but the shares fell 25p to 624.5p; JJB Sports slumped 38.5p to 249p after warning profits would be towards the lower end of estimates, say £41m, against hopes of £48m.

On the under-card, trading comments became increasingly cautious. Furniture maker Cornwell Parker dipped 5p to 57.5p on a profits warning and Riva, a software group, plunged 11p to 21p after saying profits would be around £700,000, down from £1.3m.

Scottish Highland Hotels, down 4.5p at 80.5p, was another casualty of downbeat comments. Chemical group Ellis & Everard also joined the trading gloom, falling 17.5p to 201p.

But fashion discounter Matalan added 17p to 369.5p after offering a round of Christmas trading cheer, and Dixons, figures today, surged a further 33p to a 914p peak.

On the corporate front General Electric Co was again to the fore, up 15p to 564p, on French reports that it could agree a merger with Thomson-



CSF by the end of the month. Vickers shaded 2.5p to 164.5p after confirming rumours of a

tank link with the state owned French group, Giat. First Leisure Corporation also confirmed it was in talks, although it seems a bid is not on the agenda and the

shares fell 8p to 224p. Airtech, an electronics group, is in talks which could

shares added 8p to 35.5p; Dudley Jenkins, a mailing list supplier, jumped 67.5p to 560p after signalling a possible 680p offer, and IT company Division, confirming an ap-

proach, hardened 1p to 33p. Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, defending a Pac-Man attack from Marston Thompson & Evershed, fell 25p to 465p; Marston lost 6p to

Mirror, the newspaper publisher, firmed 3p to 169p on suggestions of institutional ressure for a merger with Trinity, the provincial newspaper producer, up 10.5p to

Tesco, 9.5p stronger at 185.5p, was supported by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell comments, but British Airways failed to hold an early gain, ending 6p off at 396.5p after HSBC, bearish for five years, decided the shares were oversold. The airline has been hit by a barrage of profit downgradings and the failure of its link with American Airlines to materialise.

Coca-Cola Beverages was flat, off 3p at 112p, as CSFB cut its price target from 165p to 140p. Lasmo, in talks with Enterprise Oil, gave up 2p to 104p although Salomon Smith Barney put a 170p target on the

**SHARES OF Environmental** Property Services, the property services arm of the old Dean Corporation. are riding at an 8.75p high but are still undervalued. says stockbroker Teather & Greenwood.

Outsourcing of property maintenance is a growth area and analyst David Taylor says EPS is well placed to grow. Profits for 1999 should be around £1.52m with £1.72m next

Shire Pharmaceuticals rose 29p to 455p following a US investment presentation and KS Biomedix slipped 3p to 296.5p after duly reporting positive trials on its osteoarthritis treatment.

group which is Britain's largest supplier of televisions, gained 3p to 189p after Henderson Crosthwaite said buy, suggesting profits of £14.5m this year and £16m next.

Property group Greycoat held at 190p. Delancey Estates has lifted its stake to almost 13 per cent. Versalite, duly confirmed it may sell off its specialist glass painting business and hardened 0.25p to 1p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.2 billion SEAQ TRADES: 77,273 involve a merger, and the GILTS INDEX: 115.17 -0.81 **Investment:** Sports retailer disappoints with warning on full-year profits

## JJB runs into trouble after acquiring rival

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

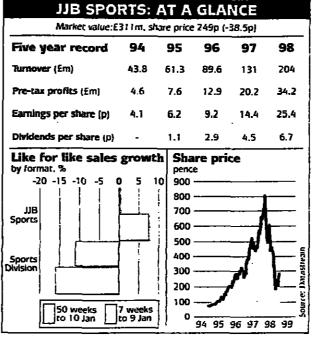
JJB SPORTS, the sports retailer, further disappointed investors yesterday when it issued a downbeat trading statement which included a warning on full-year profits. The main problem has been Sports Division, the rival sports chain acquired for £290m in September.

In the seven weeks to 9 January, sales in the Sports Division stores fell by 16 per cent on a like-for-like basis compared with the same period last vear This was worse than expected and compared with an improved performance at the JJB stores, where same-store sales rose by 7.4 per cent in the same period.

Sports Division's problems are the same as those reported at the company's interim results in October, namely a shortage of new-season stock and the elimination of discount and clearance sales. The chain has also been up against tough comparisons last year, when it spent over £1m on advertising.

JJB said it now expects group profits in the year to January to be towards the lower end of market expectations of £40m-£48m. The news disappointed analysts, who pointed out that the enlarged JJB Sports is now worth little more than the £290m it paid for Sports Division in September. That deal was part-funded by a rights issue priced at 440p per share. Yesterday the share price gave up earlier gains to slide 38.5p to 249p.

JJB is suffering from the problems that have gripped the sports retail sector since last spring, when Sports Divi-



sion was forced to pull its £350m flotation. The boom in highmargin replica football kit has cooled, consumer spending has weakened and the sector is suffering from chronic overcanacity with all the major players committed to extensive opening programmes.

John Richards, retail analyst at BT Alex.Brown, said: "Trading has pricked up in the pre-Christmas period but overcapacity is still a problem." JJB has scaled back its store opening programme but still onened 36 new stores, mostly in its larger superstore format,

The group has also agreed terms on 28 new stores in the coming year. The company concedes that there are too many high street sports shops but be- trading conditions have been

David Whelan, JJB's chairman, thinks consumer confidence is slowly returning

lieves its out-of-town superstores are a potential winner. The stock issue at Sports Division will have been resolved in the next few months. The company is converting the superstores to the JJB format at the rate of two a week, with the plan to complete the process by the end of the year.

> stores could take another three In the replica market, JJB is discounting several club strips to boost sales. Reolica kits still account for 14 per cent of group sales, down from 16 per cent a

However, the conversion of the

high street Sports Division

David Whelan, executive chairman, said yesterday: "There is no doubt that retail **Taylor** Nelson quashes fears on merger

By PETER THAL LARSEN

TAYLOR NELSON SOFRES, the market research group, yesterday quashed market fears that its year-old merger had run into trouble, with a confident trading statement.

Shares in Taylor Nelson jumped 4.5p to 98.5p as Tony Cowling, Taylor's chairman, said the integration with Sofres, the French network which was Taylor's merger partner in December 1997, was going well.

He added that, despite a slowdown in some markets as a result of declining economic growth, results were still in line with market expectations.

He was speaking as Taylor appointed David Lowden, the former finance director of Asprey & Garrard, the jewellers controlled by Prince Jefri of Brunei, as its new finance director.

very buoyant, which encour-Mr Lowden, 41, is also a former executive of AC ages me to think that consumer confidence is slowly Neilsen, the US market research giant which is one of BT Alex Brown feels JJB Taylor's principal competitors.

shares now have some poten-Yesterday's statement helped Taylor's rehabilitation tial, having fallen so far from in the stock market, where its **But SG Securities still rates** shares have suffered over the stock "underperform". The fears that the worldwide ecomain worry is that, even if connomic slowdown would hurt sumer spending does improve. demand for its businesses. the level of new store openings Last month, the shares in the sports sector will contouched a low of 67.75p, compared with a 12-month high of tinue to undermine earnings growth. The going could remain

Taylor now pursues the mundane business of television audience research and conducting consumer panels in 30 countries around the world it recently expanded into South Korea and Thailand.

The group believes that market research is becoming a global industry as multinational companies increasingly award all their business to a single supplier.

At the same time, Taylor is in the process of abandoning although sales were actually a — above their low point of 166p last — its national structure in favour Analysts said they support-

## Tough times expected for Ellis

ELLIS & EVERARD, the Bradford-based chemicals and polymers distributor, yesterday joined the growing ranks of companies issuing profits warnings when it cautioned that profits would at best be flat

nomic outlook deteriorated. The company announced a 3 per cent rise in profits to £17m for the six months to the end of October: Turnover rose by 8 per cent to £392m, but margins

Chief executive Peter Wood warned that full-year profits excluding exceptional items year's total of £32.1m, implying BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

a fall of more than 3 per cent to £15m in the second half. The company has taken

immediate measures to try to reduce costs by consolidating the distribution of bulk solvents and packaged goods in the UK and its business in the Benelux countries. This will create an exceptional charge of £1.6m in the second half and swallow up the £1.5m exceptional profit from the sale of the group's minority interest in its Italian partner, Novaria, which

was announced yesterday. Jonathan Taylor, the chairman, was quick to say that the

gies in place for long-term growth. The European sales alliance continues to attract new customers, suppliers and partners. Operating profits in the UK were unchanged,

turnover and almost half the where until the last few days the

gains were being offset by falling prices. Analysts immediately down-

difficult. October was a par-

ticularly tough month and the

Christmas trading period

started more slowly than last

year but accelerated right up to

the last day before Christmas.

Sales since then have been

returning.

their peak.

company had the right strate- ly from acquisitions and volume

graded forecasts for the full year from £34m to £32m, and the shares fell 17.5p to 201p touch lower, and prices were October, but well down on the under pressure from the au- 300p-plus at the start of 1998. Forecasts still out earnings

But, given that over half the at 24.4p a share, which would adequately cover a repeat of profits are generated in the US last year's dividend of 9.50 a share. But at just over eight overall economic position re- times earnings, the market mains remarkably optimistic. fully anticipates tough times the outlook can no longer be ahead. Growth depends on furignored. Sales in the US rose by ther acquisitions in an industry 18 per cent, but this came main-ripe for further consolidation.

#### ed Taylor's strategy but were concerned that it remains vulperable to a slowing economy - two-thirds of its revenues come from one-off projects. "At about 100p we rate the shares a hold," one broker said yesterday.

## Kingfisher brightens retail picture

#### **Pace Micro** Technology

THE HEADLINE on an article on Pace Micro Technology on Monday should have read Digital TV shifts Pace into the black", rather than into the red. The article also mistakenly reported the company's post-tax profit as its pre-tax profit. Pace's profits were in fact £8.3m refore tax for the six months the end of November.

Amec upbeat AMEC, the engineering, construction and

#### In Brief

development group, and Aggregate Industries, the building materials and merchanting group, both did their best to reassure the City yesterday with positive trading statements. Peter Mason, group chief executive of Amec confirmed that the trading outcome for the year just ended would be in line with market expectations.

The group's cash position remains strong, even after buying back 10 per cent of its convertible preference shares over the last 18 months. The overall £3bn order book has been maintained at the level of last year, and specialist services have increased orders by 18 per cent. The shares fell 2.5p to 177p.

executive of Aggregates, confirmed that in spite of a poor third quarter, performance in the second half of 1998 was satisfactory and trading ended the year on a firm note. Annual savings of £13m have been achieved as a result of the merger with CAMAS in 1997.

The shares shed 0.5p to 69p.

www.bloomberg.com/uk

Peter Torn, group chief

KINGFISHER, the B&Q to Woolworths retail group, added a ray of sunshine to Britain's gloomy high street sector yesterday when it reported solid growth in Christmas sales, led by growth

at Woolworths and Superdrug. Kingfisher's announcement coincided with a flurry of Christmas trading statements from retailers which suggest that "value-based" stores have fared better than their higher priced rivals this year as consumers tighten their belts.

Matalan, the edge-of-town discount clothing group which typically offers branded clothing at discounts of up to 50 per cent,

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By NIGEL COPE

reported strong sales growth. Signet, the former Ratners jeweller group, also did well. Louise van Blixen, retail an-

alyst at SG Securities, commented: "If there is a trend emerging, it is that the discounters are doing better than the rest." John Richards, at BT Alex.Brown added: "The general picture looks pretty gloomy and it looks as if consumers are looking for value."

Yesterday's discount success follows good figures already reported by Merchant show the same improvement, Retail, which runs the cut-

priced Perfume Shops, and rise against very strong sales Peacocks, the privately controlled ciothing discounter.

At Kingfisher, the group saw cent over Christmas. Woolworths and Superdrug led the way with like-for-like growth figures of 5 per cent.

Sir Geoff Mulcahy, Kingfisher's chief executive, said: "Customers were careful with their money in the run-up to Christmas but overall we are pleased with the group's performance."

B&Q, its DIY chain, did not with only a 0.6 per cent sales

this time last year. Darty, Kingfisher's French electricals chain, and Comet performed same store sales rise by 3.2 per moderately with same-store growth of 2 per cent and 0.9 per

cent respectively.

Matalan combined a positive trading statement with expectations of improved profits, It said full-year profits would now be "not less than £23m," compared with analysts' forecasts in the range of £17.7m to £21.5m.

In the five weeks to 2 January it recorded same-store sales growth of 11.4 per cent on the same period last year. Signet, which controls the

like-for-like sales growth of 6.2 per cent in the weeks from 2 November to 24 December. "Group profits for the year to January should be somewhat ahead of market expectations," the group said.

Signet's growth was fuelled by a strong performance in the United States, where its Sterling business saw sales up by more than 10 per cent on last year. The UK was more pedestrian, with sales at H Samuel falling by 2.4 per cent compared with a 1 per cent rise at the smaller, more mid-market chain. Ernest Jones.

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LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

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## Jordan leaving haunting legacy with retirement

AT THE United Center basketball BY ANDREW GUMBEL arena in Chicago, they worship Michael Jordan like a god. The sta dium would not have been built without him and without his extraordinary, record-breaking feats with the Chicago Bulls.

of obscurity and transformed them

stantly recognisable name in American sports, the Muhammad Ali or Babe Ruth of his generation. A statue in the arena calls Jordan the best there ever was and the best there ever will be - a piece of hyperbole that few would disagree with.

But now, it seems, the Bulls - and the world - will have to learn to live without him. After months of rumours, compounded by a bitter sixmonth labour dispute that wiped out the first part of the new basketball season, Jordan has decided to announce his retirement.

The news was widely leaked by friends and associates who have been hoping against hope for months to persuade him to stay for another season or two, and the ofcome in a news conference in Chicago as early as today.

The reaction to his decision could only be described as stunned disbelief. "Say it ain't so, Mike," implored one newspaper headline. But even the most hyperbolic sportswriters - the ones who have compared Jordan to Superman and God himself - know that the writing has been on the wall for some time.

Jordan has never hidden his wish to cruit while he was still on top of the game. After 16 professional seasons. he has achieved all that a sportsman could possibly hope to achieve: leading the Bulls to six National Basketthree in a row; being named Most Valuable Player five times; helping the United States pick up two Olympic gold medals, and - perhaps most significantly - becoming a legend in his own lifetime, a sporting phenomenon capable not only of wowing sports arenas but of driving entire economic enterprises and influencing stock prices on Wall Street,

Advancing age - he turns 36 next tor. The six-month NBA lock-out. that revolved around salaries for star players like him, appears to have left a bitter taste in his mouth, as it has for millions of disenchanted basketball fans. Although actively involved in negotiations for most of the dispute, he distanced himself in the

in Los Angeles

As the stand-off was finally resolved last week, Jordan was in the Bahamas on holiday. His teammates report that he has not been Jordan was the man who, more following his usual work-out routine than any other, dragged the Bulls out and has spent much of his time playing golf. He is also said to have cut into the most electrifying team in the history of basketball.

He has become the most in
a tendon in a finger, which would probably disqualify him for the belated start of the season on 5 Feb-

> The arguments over star salaries have also lit a fuse under the very bedrock of the Chicago Bulls. Since the summer, Jordan has been tussling with the Bulls' chairman, Jerry Krause, particularly after the departure of the team's coach, Phil Jackson, for an "extended sabbatical". Since only four of the Bulls' players are on contract, Jordan's departure is going to make it much harder for Krause to hold on to his other star players - the forward Scottie Pippen, whom Jordan calls his "little brother", and the rebounder Dennis Rodman.

It is just possible that Jordan is bluffing, or that he will change his mind. After all, he has quit before. ficial confirmation is expected to In 1993, after leading the Bulls to their first three championship titles.

> 'It was the best last moment in the history of sport. Jordan didn't retire at the top. He retired

while dancing across it'

he made the extraordinary decision to retire from basketball and try his luck at baseball.

He never made it past the minor league, and 18 months later he sent ball Association championships in a famous telegram to the Bulls eight seasons, including the last bearing just two words: "I'm back."

His first retirement appeared to be motivated, once again, by money and labour disputes. It also followed hard on the heels of the murder, still unsolved, of his father in North Carolina.

This time, though, the experts are in little doubt that Jordan means business. "When he retired the first time, I was one of the few who kept saying he eventually would return," the columnist Lacy Banks wrote in month - is probably not the only fac- yesterday's Chicago Sun-Times. "But I can't share in that optimism this time.

If this is indeed the end, Jordan's fans will be left with a haunting memory of his final act in professional baskethall: the extraordinary 18ft jump shot with which he clinched the championship for the Bulls with five seconds to go in the final game with their arch rivals, the Utah Jazz, in

After he completed the winning shot, Jordan's right arm remained extended in a frozen image of victory - a moment that was widely recalled yesterday. "It was a moment become sculpture," enthused Bill Plaschke in the Los Angeles Times. "It was perhaps the best last moment in the history of sports... Michael Jordan didn't retire at the top. He retired while dancing across it."

As a player, Jordan was something of a late developer. In high school in North Carolina, he hesitated for a long time between baskethall and basebali - a hesitation that would affect his later career. too. Although he was twice named college player of the year, he was not initially believed to be quite the star material he turned into and was judged to be only the third best player of his year when he was drafted from college to the Bulls

Soon, though, he was stunning the crowds with his dunk shots, his hand-switching, his extraordinary point-scoring capacity (63 points in a single, fabled game against the Boston Celtics) and his ability to deliver at the crucial moment.

As he propelled the Bulls towards the top, the team drafted Phil Jackson as coach and Pippen and Horace Grant (later replaced by Rodman) as fellow players. By 1991, the most successful line-up in NBA history was in place, and wiped out the competition year after year.

So strong was the fascination Jordan exerted that he became the darling of advertisers, sponsors and merchandisers.

Nike designed a shoe, the Air Jordan, just for him and made a fortune out of it. He endorsed hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, cars, airlines and more. When he returned to professional basketball in 1995, the share price of Nike and McDonald's

culated his revenue-generating abilities were worth \$1bn (£600m) to the city of Chicago alone. Last year, Fortune magazine estimated he had contributed \$10bn dollars to the US economy as a whole. His departure will thus be a blow

In 1993 the Chicago Tribune cal-

of staggering proportions. He was one of the few reasons fans were still clinging on to a sport that was struggling with its finances and its self-image even before the NBA lock-out The Chicago Bulls may not sur-

vive his retirement, and the rest of the league is trembling too. As a Chicago fan told an overnight radio call-in, nobody is indispensable, but Michael Jordan might just be the exception to that rule.



Michael Jordan dragged the Chicago Bulls from obscurity into the most electrifying team in the history of basketball

defeat

## School helps Martin-Jenkins to grow up

sense of the word to be a burden. The late Jim Laker gently poked fun at it when he said: "There are a lot of people in the field of cricket broadcasting these days, there's Christopher Martin-Jenkins to name three of them."

But the 23-year-old Robin Martin-Jenkins is not bothered. "I would never dream of dropping the Martin hyphen bit," he said. "If anything it has helped me rather than hindered my progress over the years. As I was going through the ranks of schoolboy cricket and then later in trials with Sussex I would get looked at more than the other boys, because people were interested in the name. But I have still had to come up with the goods. It is not the name that has got me where I am."

At least Robin's cricket career is not going to be one long comparison with that of his father. Christopher is once removed from the profesand right arm fast-medium bowler, has just entered with Sussex. "My father is not a bad batsman," said Robin, who like his old man, the Daily Telegraph cricket correspondent and BBC Test Match Special commentator, plays for his club, Horsham, whenever he gets the

"But, because he is a journalist live up to in terms of playing the mer and there is excited talk, in the

New faces for 1999: Durham Academy has sharpened all-round even in that short time there I felt skills and frame of mind of Sussex cricketer. By David Llewellyn

game and matching or bettering his achievements. He is not an Ian Botham. I feel very sorry for Liam Botham and other sons of famous sports people from that point of

As sound as those sentiments are, Martin-Jenkins is already having to live up to his own achievements for Sussex, where he is beginning to show all the signs of turning into a genuine all-rounder. He was fourth highest in his

county's first-class batting averages at a shade under 30, and he proved with a couple of Championship half-centuries that he can hit the ball. He is correct, but not afraid to go for his shots. His fast medium bowling - and

the occasionally wickedly quicker sional world his son, a right-hand bat ball - brought him 22 wickets at 19.86, in the handful of Championship matches his final-year studies at Durham University allowed him. With his height he can generate useful bounce, and although he strives for consistency of rhythm there is a quicker delivery that can catch out the best of batsmen.

Indeed, his bowling looks to be the real thing. A career-best 7 for 54 and a broadcaster, while I am a pro- against. Glamorgan was a matchfessional cricketer, I have nothing to winning performance late last sum-

shires and in the game in general. of him having the potential to go all the way to the top.

Martin-Jenkins is having none of it. Not surprising, really. He graduated with a degree in sociology and has a sharp enough grasp of the realities of his chosen profession. And anyway, he has not even been capped by Sussex yet, so talk of him succeeding for England has to be a touch premature to say the least.

With his feet planted firmly on the ground, some six and a half feet below his head, Martin-Jenkins makes it clear he is under no illusions. "I need to do a full year in county cricket which, provided I am picked, should be this coming season," he said.

"Traditionally coaches and the press get very excited when a youngster does well in their first half year, talking about their potential as an England player only to find a couple of years later that they have not progressed. I just would not know. I need to bowl and bat against the best, then I will find out. Right now I am quite happy to be underrated rather than overrated." When pushed, though, Martin-Jenkins admitted: "Quietly I would back

myself to succeed. No one, it would seem had real-

ly pushed him much as a youngster. For all his father's ability at club level, the pushing was to come a lot later in Martin-Jenkins' formative

He said: "My father has been a very big influence, encouraging me from the moment I first picked up a bat. He went out of his way to make sure I had the best coaching around and the best opportunities. Like a lot of parents he has driven me all over the country as a youngster, taking me to matches and festivals. Yet he has never made me play cricket. He never pushed me to go on. It is something that happened naturally.

"Although we have never actually discussed it, I think he was desperate for me to make it in the game. One gets that impression. He is delighted when I do well and he asks me all sorts of questions about life as a professional cricketer."

The push came to shove while Martin-Jenkins was in his second year at Durham. He became a part of the Durham Academy, coming under the harder-nosed, highly intelligent influence of former Lancashire and England opener Graeme 'Foxy' Fowler.

"I only really benefited in my second year at the academy, which was last year," said Martin-Jenkins. "But

**4 4 9 9** 

much better prepared for the season with Sussex. And I did not feel I was losing out in the professional game by being at university. In future people at Durham University will find, thanks to the academy, that their cricket will not suffer. They will come out at the end with a degree and their playing career should have progressed.

"From a personal point of view Foxy has definitely helped me grow up in the game," acknowledged Martin-Jenkins. "The academy, though, helps everyone to get into a professional frame of mind. Foxy is good at the mental side of the game, while obviously the technical side of coaching there is also very

David Gilbert, now general manager at Hove, saw a huge difference in Martin-Jenkins. "He was harder." remembered Gilbert, the former Australian Test fast bowler "They brought out his competitive side. There was suddenly an edge to his zame.'

He managed one Championship match during his Easter vacation when he scored a second-innings 63 and had three victims in a two-wicket win over Lancashire. He also has a modicum of success in the Sunday League match against the same opponents, although Sussex lost that game, which was played under flood-

Martin-Jenkins is still young



Buckling down: Martin-Jenkins wants county career Peter Jay

enough and new enough in the realised that cricket is going to be game to marvel at how his life is panning out. "I took a year off school [Radley] and university and I got caught up in the excitement of it all. Just to be a professional cricketer was amazing," he said. And it would appear that the enthusiasm and wonder of it has still

But reality is there all the same.

my life," he explained. "So I jolly well." have to buckle down or end up on the dole or in an office job which I definitely don't want."

However far he goes, Martin-Jenkins has the wherewithal and the attitude. Already he is beginning to make a name for himself. It is surely just a matter of time before a littie bit of history is created - father "I think I have grown up a bit and doing commentary on his son.

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## Olazabal takes the slow route

Catest talent? About the only remaining the only man Olazabal has ever listened to about his own particularly rapid action.

Top of the agenda was his week Christmas and New Year break is Jose Maria Olazabal. It is hard to prise the Spaniard this time of year and it is hard- grief. ly a surprise that he has not omed the lemming-like rush down to South Africa for the start of the 1999 European Jour on Thursday.

Olazabal's season will not get under way until the Dubai Classic next month, where he will be the defending champion, but he did get on a plane last week. It was only an internal flight down to Malaga, where he popped in on the MacGregor Training Week to see his old coach, John

The veteran swing guru is ball like you, Darren."

problem driving the ball, one that outside observers find hard to detect but which causaway from his San Sebastian es the perfectionist inside Ollie home in the Basque country at to find a constant source of

> "Not being able to hit the driver properly is hard to take because the rest of my game is all right," Olazabal said. "I drove the ball well for four or five weeks early last year when I had some good results and won in Dubai but all of a sudden it deteriorated."

Olazabai was also at San Roque to film a television commercial with another MacGregor player, Darren Clarke. The gist of the conversation was: 'I'd like to be able to drive the

Even a Spanish master finds the atmosphere at the MacGregor Training Week in Spain conducive to the development of new skills. By Andy Farrell

"And I'd love to hole as many putts from 15 feet as you, Jose."

One of the other reason why Olazabal thinks the majority of his 1998 season did not live up to a promising start was not having a proper break last winter. "I only had 10 days off before I started practising again to play the early events of the season," he said. "By June and July I was feeling very tired."

The former Masters champion has the option to pick and choose his assignments. He also has the knowledge that he does not have to worry about retaining his player's card or chasing Ryder Cup points, which will come in abundance with a few top finishes.

For those officially invited to the European Tour Training School, the new recruits from the Qualifying School and the Challenge Tour, the same does not apply. Immediately on getting back from Spain on Sunday John Bickerton was on a plane to Johannesburg for the South African PGA.

Bickerton, who turns 30 later this month, is used to a busy schedule. At one point last season be played 22 consecutive weeks, trying to combine a limited number of appearances on the main circuit with the Chal-

lenge Tour, where he managed to secure his card for the real thing. "You have to keep going because you're thinking the

next week might be the big

He considered pulling out of the British Masters because he was shattered but was persuaded to carry on and finished eighth, his best result on the European Tour. Having lost his card after two seasons in 1996, Bickerton feels more prepared

"I have learnt not to set too many goals," he said. "In the past I found that obstructive because you end up thinking more about the goals than just tell you what do to, but he can playing golf."

This was Bickerton's third visit to the MacGregor Week and though the idea is that players do well enough never to return – Vijay Singh became the first graduate to win a major championship at the USPGA last August - Bickerton found it just as valuable as on his first visit. "I would come every year if I was invited," he said. "I cannot believe more players who have the opportunity don't come. If you take away one thing in each aspect of the

game, then it is worth it." By far the biggest draw is Tommy Horton's short game clinics. The unrivalled No 1 on the European Seniors Tour, Horton is showing off new tricks to players who think they know it all. "The great thing about Tommy is that not only does he

show you," said Bickerton. "There is an instant cure, while it takes time to work on things with your swing."

Bickerton finished fourth in the MacGregor Challenge at Valderrama, which was won by Per Nyman with a 65. Jimmy Patino, the club's president, was not present to witness this affront to his praised creation but he was apparently happier that only three of the 20 players broke par. Jorgen Aker holed a six-

iron for an albatross two at the infamous 17th, but the hole was only playing 450 yards and will be converted to a par-four by the time the American Express World Championship is staged at the former Ryder Cup venue in November.

The scientific approach to the game is all very well but things



can get out of hand. Mac O'Grady, the eccentric 47-yearold American who ruffled a few feathers when he won his card at the Qualifying School, was not at San Roque, but the word is that he is considering having two inches taken out of his legs. O'Grady has made a thorough study of the physiology of the golf swing and one of the main conclusions of his research is, apparently, that the ideal height

## Rusedski frustrated by Kuerten

GREG RUSEDSKI'S bad start to 1999 continued yesterday when he went out in the first round of the Sydney International. The British No 2's 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat by Gustavo Kuerten was his second consecutive first-round defeat in the opening two ATP tournaments of the year.

Last week, Rusedski was beaten in his match against the German Bernd Karbacher in the Qatar Open, losing 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, while his British rival, Tim Henman, reached the final.

At least the Brazilian Kuerten is a recognised star of the tour, with a French Open victory in 81 minutes. Hewitt title under his belt, but with Rusedski seeded five, and ranked nine in the world, it was still an upset.

Rusedski, who now goes into next week's Australian Open in Melbourne with just two competitive matches under his belt however. "There's nothing to be negative about, nothing to be down about it," Rusedski said. "Kuerten just played a great match, he was just too good."

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The US Open champion, Patrick Rafter, was another nance of vital match practice hefore next week's Australian Open when he lost 7-6, 6-1 to the teenager Lleyton Hewitt in the former women's No 1 Martina first round of the Sydney In-

Hewitt has a particular liking for big scalps. When he won the Adelaide Hardcourt Championships last year at the age of 16 he beat the former world in the first round after gaining

BY JOHN BROCK

The young Australian counter-puncher managed to keep a rusty Rafter on the move throughout, forcing him into repeated errors, and never allowed the world No 4 to stamp any authority on the match. After four breaks of service in the opening set, Hewitt took it easily on the tie-break 7-1.

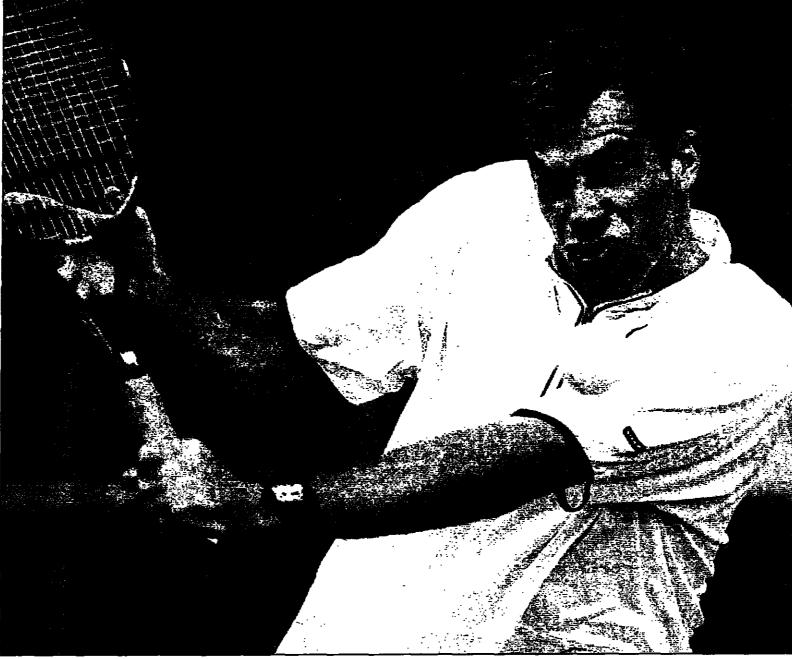
Hewitt was too strong for Rafter in the second set, rifling winners past the second seed. He broke service twice to seal now faces Nicolas Kiefer of Germany in the second round.

Rafter was a second-round loser to the Czech Slava Dosedel at the Adelaide tournament and yesterday's defeat means be will line up in Melbourne having played only three matches after calm after his latest setback, off with a knee injury. "My concentration slipped. It was a little

bit up and down," Rafter said. Speaking of his problems playing in Australia - he has never progressed beyond the fourth round in seven Australian Opens - Rafter said: "It's geyer who squandered the always a pretty big issue for me and I don't think it will change. I've always struggled at home."

> In the women's event, the Hingis was in typically devastating form as she disposed of another promising Australian teenager, Alicia Molik, 6-1 6-2.

Molik, 17, had beaten the world No 16 Natasha Zvereva No 1 Andre Agassi on the way. a wild card entry.



Greg Rusedski plays a backhand in his second successive first-round defeat, to Gustavo Knerten in Sydney yesterday

Hingis, the world No 2, produced a clinical display to beat well today and played almost Molik in her opening match of the tournament. She broke the Australian's first two service games on the way to a 5-0 lead in the first set and then pushed the tall Molik around the court at will in the second to wrap up victory in under an hour.

"I was concentrating very without mistakes," said Hingis, into his first-round match. who will be defending her Australian Open title next week.

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894

or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

seeded five, lost in straight sets to the Austrian, Barbara Schett. The men's world No 2, Marcelo Rios, dropped out of

Spain's Conchita Martinez,

the ATP tournament in Auck- his match against the Romanland yesterday just 46 minutes ian Andre Pavel 7-5, but when

A recurrence of a back injury which troubled him at the end of last year was apparently the reason for his withdrawal. The Chilean was the top seed at the Heineken Auckland Open. Rios had won the first set of Tasmanian International

he was broken in the second game of the second set - refusing to chase a ball on break point - he withdrew to the

ment for back pain. In the second round of the

women's event in Hobart. Ruxandra Dragomir became the third seed to be beaten. The Romanian, seeded seven, had no answer to Grande's big forehand and crisp volleying and the Italian, who has been out of locker-room to receive treatthe game with a back injury, achieved a comprehensive 6-1,

Clive Brunskill/Allsport

#### Korda to face players' meeting

PETR KORDA, the Australian Open champion, said in Melbourne yesterday that he would attend a meeting of his peers this weekend that is due to discuss his lenient treatment over a positive steroid test - but the Czech veteran promised to defend his title at the year's first Grand Slam tournament.

"I will stand in front of the players. I do not have any problem doing so," Korda said. "I didn't do anything wrong, so why I should hide myself?"

Korda spoke as players and officials continued their close scrutiny of his positive test for the banned steroid nandrolone at Wimbledon last year. The 30-year-old was stripped of the ranking points he earned plus the \$92,529 (£57,360) prizemoney he won.

An International Tennis Federation Appeals Committee stopped short of sentencing him to the mandatory one-year ban under its own anti-doping not knowingly take the drug.

Korda said he had been tested many times, including after last year's Australian Open. "I have never knowingly taken or been treated with any banned substance," he said. Leading players were split

over the controversy. Andre Agassi said players were entitled to find out the reasons for the positive test and the subsequent light penalty but threw his full support behind

Thomas Muster, however, said that the ITF had failed to enforce its own rules. "The question is, was he guilty or not? If he was guilty punish him. if not let him go," he said.

#### Honour, defeat and our malaise

Sir: An American friend of mine rang me to make a point that he has made many times in the past decade. As long as we, the British. continue to welcome home beaten teams as though there was something honourable and even creditable in defeat, then we are never going to be a nation of sporting winners.

Over the past three months the English cricket team has performed feebly. They have shown a total lack of the ability to be tough and be real winners. After we had lost the Ashes I rang my friend in New York and predicted that we would win the next Test. Sure enough. when nothing was at stake, we won. When are we going to understand that winning a Test match once the Ashes have been lost is close to no achievement at all?

Do we really believe that if the Ashes had been up for grabs the Australians would have lost in Melbourne? There were three headlines in The Independent regarding our latest apathetic efforts in Sydney, and the series as a whole. Stewart's men earn respect for a courageous performance"; 188 all out - a courageous performance? "Honour has been salvaged." How? Where? When? There is no honour in defeat. England captain has

emerged with credit for

rediscovered fighting spirit."

Just because a couple of our and did away with it. We bowlers actually managed to live up to, or maybe even slightly surpass, their potential does not excuse the rest of the team for four matches of underachievement and a total lack of spirit.

Delusion is a malaise that we, as a sporting nation, have suffered from for too long. In football we went out with great honour at Italia 90, were robbed at Euro 96 and to add insult to previous failure, Glenn Hoddle tells us that if David Beckham hadn't been sent off we would have gone on to win the World Cup. How do we react to this? We renew his contract. In America, he would not have had time to board the plane home before being sacked, and rightly so.

It is time to wake up: defeat is defeat. Whether it is by one run, one goal, one wicket or a penalty, it is still defeat and defeat is failure. Ninety per cent of our touring cricket team should hang their heads in shame for their lack of guts, but we let them off the book by covering them in "honour", "courage" and "fighting

Surely it is time that we recognised this embairassing British trait want to be winners and we want to welcome our sportsmen back with praise and honour, but they have to actually deserve such accolades. JOHN BATTSEK London

Playing fields must be forever

Sir: Following our ignominious Ashes defeat, it is not surprising that so many armchair critics have the problem solved. At the risk of joining this mob, may I make a couple of observations.

It is not just cricket that we should be concerned about. I have been a governor of a number of schools and colleges over the past 25 years, during which there has been a worrying policy of flogging off playing fields and, indeed, school sites to developers.

It will take a good number of years yet for many of our major team sports to recover from this short-term policy of eating the seed corn. No doubt we will recover – we always do - but it would be nice if the nutters were not carite so proffigate with our assets. BRIAN CLANCY Altrincham, Cheshire

#### Hypocrisy of 'health risks'

Sir: Your Leader "Can it be right to risk your life for sport?" (31 December) would seem to accept that the core reason for banning drugs in sport ~ "health of" the sportsman" – is not valid. I have found it strange that we should praise the courage of yachtsmen, yet heap ignominy on athletes. for taking risks with their health.

I would welcome some debate on this dilemma. Let this not get side-tracked by references to "cheating". Change the rules and you have no cheating, exactly in the same way the rules on amateurism were changed. BARRY WILLIAMS Holmes Chapel,

Rich and tired what a strain

Sir: What is the world coming to? A fortnight ago the Leicester City manager, Martin O'Neill, was complaining that his (presumably well paid) players are "tired", having played two games over three days during the Christmas Then today (7 January)

we hear that Robbie Fowler has rejected a contract worth £35,000 a week. I despair... I am a nurse. regularly pay good money to watch football and players who wouldn't get out of bed for what I earn, and am expected to cry into my cornflakes for managers and players alike! Get into the

real world, fellas!

RICHARD HUGHES

Southwark, London

International pool for referees Sir: I wondered if Richard

Williams ("Red mist for the men in black", 31 December) had considered a European "scheme" in which referees could be pooled to take charge of games in Europe. Such use of officials works

well in European competitions and could work successfully in individual national premier leagues. Following the rapid "internationalisation" of the Premiership (in players, coaches, managers), I suggest that this route should be considered as well as professional referees. Such a proposal would also improve our own refereeing standards by allowing them more European experience. As a referee of 10 years

experience, it is important to recognise the conservatism of the Football Association, but there is some hope that refereeing is beginning. albeit slowly, to move from mid-20th century postures to football reality of 1999. RICHARD SKELLINGTON Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes

No sense in sales policy at Palace Sir. After Michael Owen, Matt Jansen is the most

exciting young forward in the country. Don't just take that from Crystal Palace fans like me: ask Peter Taylor. manager of the England Under-21 team, or Four Four Two magazine, which recently voted him the best striker outside the

Premiership. Jansen had the chance last season to join Manchester United but chose instead to come to Palace, despite the fact that relegation from the Premiership looked likely. He recently signed a new long-term contract, says he enjoys working under Terry Venables and has apparently moved into a new home near the club's training ground. So why on earth are Palace

contemplating selling him to Newcastle United? We Palace supporters are

a long-suffering lot, but the

sale of Jansen, particularly at a giveaway fee of £4m, would be the final straw. Since last summer we have witnessed the sale of a succession of good players - Marc Edworthy, Dean Gordon, Neil Shipperley and Bruce Dyer to name just four - to be replaced by vastly inferior signings. Venables might complain with some justification about a lack of transfer funds, but the fact is that he has still had plenty of money to spend.

The problem is that money has been spent on players like Lee Bradbury (£1.5m) and David Amsalem (£850,000) who are simply not up to the task. SUE DONATO Croydon

Varsity teams not

in right spirit Sir: Is it not high time that the annual Cambridge v Oxford rugby union match became more, instead of less, true to the spirit of student rugby? At the risk of being proved wrong by your correspondent Alan Watkins. a contemporary of mine at

Cambridge in the 1950s, I seem to recall that the teams then were drawn mainly from young undergraduates. with only the occasional graduate "star" who had previously played at a higher level. The reverse seems to be the case today when, when quite a number of the players are in their midtwenties, hail frequently from Commonwealth countries, have often already made their mark in club. national or even international rugby and may only be at university for a short time to enable them to study for various post-

graduate qualifications. It must be frustrating for those who have shown a great deal of talent at school or college level to realise that their chances of gaining a Blue at this sport are almost as unlikely as a fall of snow in the Sahara.

Would it not be better for the respective sides to be picked solely from undergraduates between the ages of, say, 18 and 22? The spectacle for the paying public might not be quite so attractive (though that is debatable) but at least the resultant match would give the appearance of being a more genuine contest between representatives of these two ancient universities.

Incidentally, the same remarks could probably be made with regard to the Boat Race. ANDREW J WOFFENDEN

Marple, Stockport, Cheshire

luja.

## 'Guilty' RFU told to name its sentence

MORE AND more curious. No sooner had the controversial merger between Bristol and London Scottish hit the first of what could be a series of legal buffers than the International Rugby Board, which seldom passes up an opportunity to further disrupt a sport that already feels disrupted out, threw another political spanner into the union works. The IRB revealed they had found the Rughy Football Union guilty of "conduct prejudicial to the interests of the board" - a judgement that could, in theory at least, have far-reaching consequences for the England national team.

Twickenham found itself in the IRB dock before Christmas over its response to a European Commission complaint filed by the professional English clubs, who want to establish a raft of commercial rights under EC competition law.

A month on, the board's

SOUTH AFRICA'S top rugby

official, Silas Nkanunu, said

yesterday that the Springboks'

World Cup squad should be

more racially representative and team selection needed to

take into account the injustices

president of the South African

Rugby Football Union, said he

include more black players,

helped by a selection policy

based on "merit with bias".

shores." Nkanunu said.

tournament against Australia

discussed at a meeting of

Nkanunu, the first black

of apartheid.

By Chris Hewett

members were not quite bold enough to impose a punishment for fear of finding themselves in the nearest civil court. Bizarrely enough, they have asked the RFU to suggest its own sanction, to be considered by the board tomorrow week.

An IRB statement accused

the RFU of concealing details

of its EC response, despite earlier assurances of "absolute and unqualified support", and continued: "We found this unannounced change in attitude to be inappropriate conduct that board members could properly condemn." Having already denied the RFU 260,000 in grant money because of the English clubs' rebel matches with Cardiff and Swansea, the board now has the choice of im-

posing a direct fine, suspending England from Test competidisciplinary committee has tion or expelling the union from reached its verdict, although its the international community.

affair and the QCs will no doubt be in action again tomorrow President calls for the judgement at a mana ment committee meeting. Meanwhile, the extraordi-'mixed race' bias

Nkanunu said. Sarfu would also be talking with the three national team selectors in coming weeks about the issue, The racial make-up of South Africa's national rugby team has come under the spotlight after a nearly all-white team toured Britain late last year, matching New Zealand's wanted future national teams to record of 17 consecutive Test victories. All 22 players who featured in the Tests against England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales were white.

"Sarfu has said it would like to send a more representative Black players were only team to the World Cup and seen in midweek, regional and club games on the British tour that teams need to reflect the country when it leaves our and have made little headway The squad for the World domestic provincial competi-Cup, which starts in Wales on tion, the Currie Cup, or the 1 October and the Tri-Nations

Super 12 tournament The Sports Minister, Steve and New Zealand, would be Tshwete, has already said he would be unable to support an Sarfu's 13-member executive all, or nearly all-white, squad if next month in Cape Town, it went to the cricket World Cup.

TOMORROW

CAN COLIN MONTGOMERIE KEEP HIS CROWN FOR A

SEVENTH YEAR IN SUCCESSION? ANDY FARRELL

LOOKS AT THE START OF THE EUROPEAN GOLF TOUR

HOCKEY

appointment yesterday, said:

"We are delighted to welcome

Richard to English hockey.

We are especially pleased to be

able to have found a chief

executive with the calibre and

experience to undertake a

challenging role at this stage

as a motivational team leader

TODAY'S

NUMBER

20m

The number of guilders

(£6.5m) the Spanish football

club Barcelona agreed to

pay yesterday to Ajax of

Amsterdam for their Dutch

international defender Frank

de Boer. Barcelona have been

chasing Frank and his

brother Ronald all season.

"He has a proven pedigree

in the sport's history.

BY BILL COLWILL

sanction, although the RFU will be in no mood to pay up with a cheery grin. Stephen Baines, the IRB chief executive. indicated yesterday that, while the decision had been taken in all seriousness and that the full range of punishments were available to the board, nothing would be done to jeopardise this autumn's World Cup. "The sport continues to flourish beboard and the membership to act collectively in the best interests of the game," he said. "It is my hope now that the RFU ment to that principal so that

we can move forward together." That last comment would have been greeted by derisive laughter in the committee rooms of Twickenham, although the public response from the RFU was deafeningly silent. The union has acted on its own legal advice throughout this when senior officials consider the judgement at a manage-

nary attempt by Bristol to buy their way back into a top flight from which they were relegated last season by taking over London Scottish, appeared to have stalled last night. Both Tony Tiarks, the major shareholder behind the financially fragile Exiles, and Nick de Scossa, the Bristol chief executive, were meeting with union and club officials yesterday when news broke of a rival bid, tabled by London Scottish supporters enraged by the developments of the last few days. Given that company law obliges Tiarks to consider all bids, the process will likely be more drawn out than De Scossa

Along the A4 at Bath, Andy Robinson's fading champions received another setback ves in South Africa's premier terday when the local council refused to grant the club's request for a four-year extended ease arrangement at the Recreation Ground. Although Bath can play matches at their home ground until mid-May, there is no guarantee that they will be allowed to do so again.



## Ainslie has world title in sight

BEN AINSLIE is just two races away from winning the Laser World Championship to give Britain a flying start today in the seven Ulvindic classes holding their world title regattas at Port Phillip Bay. The 21-year-old, now based in Lymington, yesterday doubled his lead on his nearest rival, the Brazilian Robert Schiedt, who pipped him for gold at the Atlanta Games.

The quietly spoken Briton, who has won four races while Scheidt has taken just one, has a 14-point overall lead on the Brazilian and said: "I thought it would be a bit tighter than this," but he is not taking

anything for granted. Ainslie won yesterday's first race and saw both Schiedt and the Australian Michael Blackburn struggle in the shifty, softer winds and knows he will need all his concentration to ensure he does not fall into the same trap. "This is the big one for '99, the one I want to do

BY STUART ALEXANDER

well in," he said. And is it a step to the Olympics in Sydney next year? "No," he said. "Sydney is still a long way off and the conditions at an Olympics will be so different. At the moment I am not sailing towards Sydney, I am sailing each event as it comes. And I want to defend my European title in Helsinki at the end of August."

Two fourths for Shirley Robertson in the Europe, added to the two wins of the first day, were enough to keep her in the lead. She has a fourpoint advantage over the Netherlands' Margriet Matthiisse as the current world champion, Carolijn Brouwer, languishes in 25th, having been disqualified in the first race.

second victory of the series in

And Iain Percy landed his

the Finn class to stay third stuff," Beadsworth had said, "Remember the primary rule. overall - he was not helped by and so it proved as they won the Where is the money?' a 20th in the first race of the day fourth race and pulled them-

tod 12 to have scored a wid. The 49ers, still managing to capsize regularly and recovering from three broken masts and a bent boom in the squalls of Monday, continue their lengthy, 12-race qualifying process, which should finish today.

Britain hopes for four, maybe five, boats in the gold fleet, which then embarks on another 12-race series to decide the world champion over the next three days. Top of the British pile last night were the Budgen brothers, Andy disappointed at lying seventh overall. "We were consistently

average today," he said. The southerly winds, blowing at seven to 12 knots, suited the Soling trio of Andy Beadsworth, Barry Parkin and newcomer Richard Sydenham. "We are quick in the lighter

and he is the only one in the selves up to sixth overall. Just Championship will have as important psychologic was that they regained the advantage over British rivals Lawrie Smith and his 1992

bronze medal crew of Rob Cruikshank and Ossie Stewart. Smith, 14th yesterday and 11th overall, makes light of putting in a serious bid for his third Olympic place, saying: "The number one objective

was to come to Australia and do some regattas, and to keep up with the game. But if we finish in the top 10 we have the option to carry on and, even if the America's Cup happens, we will probably carry on anyway. If everything went well we might even consider going for

the Olympic team trials." He did not wish to comment about the America's Cup except to mention talks to bring in a major sponsor, saying:

Whoever wins the Soling

earned it. "This is as good a fleet as I have ever seen." said keelboat coach, Bill Edgerton. "There are no marshmallows out there, no one with a soft centre." With Denmark's Stig Westergaard setting the pace, chased by triple gold medallist Jochen Schuemann, Edgerta

also pointed to the pace of

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1996 Finn bronze medallist and 1998 Whitbread skipper Roy Heiner of the Netherlands. "He is running hot," he said. Mike Golding has withdrawn from the Around Alone race as the damage to his £1m 60ft Team Group 4, sustained while leading the race, was too great to allow him to complete the final two legs from

Auckland to Charlestown, South Carolina. Results, Sporting Digest,

## Reading man given key job

HOCKEY'S CALL for a grass roots man with big business management skills appears to have been answered with the appointment yesterday of Richard Wyatt as the new chief executive of the English Hockey Association.

The 52-year-old manager of the Premier League club Reading, whose son Jonathan is a current England international and Atlanta Olympian, starts his new duties on 1

Wyatt, a board member at British Aerospace Defence in a changing environment Systems who has travelled ex- as well as being a skilled mantensively, is well aware of the tasks ahead. "My first six months will be about understanding the inner workings of the game and talking to as many people as possible about the issues," he said.

His career in the game has included spells at Swindon. and Old Tauntonians, where he was also coach and chairman. an initial period at the Rustlers at Reading and Sydney's Northern Districts, where he also became coach.

Reading for the past six years, during which time they have both won league and cup hon-

He has been in charge of

The EHA president, Monica

#### HYPERION

1.00 Monchania 1.30 Sotonian 2.00 Sue Me 2.35 La Piazza 3.05 Holy Smoke 3.40 Burning 4.10 Sudest (nb)

WOLVERHAMPTON

4-10 SLIGEST (IID)

GOING: Standard, STALLS: Inside, DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low.

Fibresand, left-hand, ovel course.

Course is N of town on A449, Wolverhampton station Im.

ADMISSION: Cub S15; Tattersels 29, 622 off for OAP members of Diamond Club); Restaurant package prices \$1750 to \$3595 including course entrance and meal. CAR PARK: free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinshiesd 65-649 (1874), M Johnston 44-235 (87%), P Exerts 40-377 (1054), N Litimoden 39-329 (19%), I LEADING 3CKECYS: S Senders 43-311 (38%), Deen McKeown 35-289 (121%), J Wester 34-200 (17%), D Holland 31-133 (23.3%).

FAVOURITES: 458-1432 (32%),

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Maddens Mad (3.40).

1.00 BASIL SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (Div 1) \$2,500 added 1m 100yds

8 SECURITY THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE BRIDGE STREET OF THE BRIDGE FORM GUIDE

TOMBI GUIDE
These are hardly known for their reliability and this is a race with too many its for any confidence. Although four of these have won here, including last week's 1-2 Roffey Splaney and Monchenia, at may be worth giving another chance to DOBERIMAN. Brian Meghan's 4yc, who has been mainly running in much better company, ran better than his finishing position suggests at Lingfield last. Seturday and this trip may well turn out to be his optimum.

#### 1.30 COGNAC HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 5f

/xx 40.
BETTING: 7-2 Malbamia, 5-1 Schoolen, 8-1 Pride Of Boldon, Tinker's Sur-prise, 8-1 Aljaz, Nobre Patriot, 10-1 Village Methys, Sharp Hist, Dyce, 14-1 others

FORM GUIDE Back on his fevourite track top weight Pride Of Briston has to be feared, but it could be the day for MAITEAMILA to gain a deserved success. Despite a long losing run he has not done much wrong and his early pace is a big asset round here. Sotonien, who had five of these behind when numer-up over course and distance last Saturday, and Village Native make most appeal of the rest

2.00 CHINA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) 22,750 added 6f

FORM GUIDE

SUE ME and Polar Mist are closely matched on lest time out South-well running, but given that the former is easier to win with, he is readily preferred. Ice Age is broadly on a par too judging by offical ratings, but lecks a recent run

#### 2.35 MALIBU MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3YO 61

T Waters :
.....T Sprake 10
.....V Halfday 12
.....A Cultura 11
.....S Whitworth 9
....P Roberts (3) ! 

- 12 declared -BETTING: 2-1 La Piszza, 4-1 Sisnder, 5-1 Avenging Argel, 7-1 Red Verus, Three Bay Trees, 8-1 Helen's Wedding, 12-1 Able Pete, 16-1 others FORM GUIDE LA PIAZZA is the pick on form and though it would not take an especially stiented unexposed horse to improve past her, she does look the ficelest winner on the evidence exallable. Stander is one of a number of possible alternatives.

3.05 JAFFA HANDICAP (CLASS C) £9,000 added 1m 1f 79yds 

FORM GUIDE

This step up in trip looks likely to suit the in-form JIBERIEEN, who can prove the point by halling the winning run of Holy Smoke, who is also trying farther. Be Warned has a good record over course and distance and may prove best of the remainder

#### 3.40 BASIL SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (DIV II) £2,500 added 1m 100yds

FORM GUIDE

he the first division, not a great race for punting with far too many the and buts for the race to be approached with much confidence. Burning is by far the best in according to official marks, but he Burning is by as the cost in according to onless make, but he was last week as well, when costing puriters dear. Perhaps this will be the day SHARP MONKEY recaptures his best, for there were signs as time over a trip well beyond his best that he could

#### 4.10 JERICHO HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 1m 6f 166yds

4200-1 SUDEST (4) (Ç) i Belding 5 10 3 (Ged). 0004-1 WHITLEY GRANGE BOY (9) J.L. Eyes 6 10 1 (Sec) ... C. Lowther 2 00501- ARCTIC THUNDER (26) (CD) 8 Paling 8 9 12 ... G Faultrup (5) 4 (25) A PREMIER DANCE (25) (27) S PRINTE S 22 A PRINTE S) A POS (3) E 3668 PREMIER DANCE (116) (CD) D Hajdri Jones 2 89 ... Drowne 5 (25-34 EVEZIO RUFO (2) (C) N Litmoden 7 7 12 ... R Thorase (7) 1 Y

6 declared — -6 declared — BETTING: 7-4 Surfact, 4-1 Evezio Rufo, B-2 Whitely Grange Boy, 5-1 Arctic Thunder, 7-1 Chabrol, 8-1 Premier Dence FORM GUIDE

SUDEST won really well on his all-weather debut here on Seturday and on that form will be very hard to beat, even under a 6th penalty. Evezio Ruto may be the main danger, ahead of lest time out winner Whittiey Grange Boy

## \*THE INDEPENDENT

RACING SERVICES  $0891\ 261\ +$ LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 981

#### RACING RESULTS

LINGFIELD

Going: Standard 1.00: firm 5f claiming stakes) 1. PRINCE DANZIG ..... P Spencer 4-1 2. Mystagogue ......R Smith Evens fav 3. Winged Greybird ...... Lowe 50-1 Also ran: 6-1 Quiet Arch (4th), 7-1 Flying Eagle (5th), 10-1 Send Cey, 14-1 Madami Chimnery (6th), 50-1 Spring Blade. 8 ran. Nk, 15, 11/4, 3, 8, (D Murray Smith,

Market Harborough, Leicestershire). Tota:

\$5.70; \$2.00, \$1.00, \$25.10 OF: \$3.60 CSP:

1.30: (7f 3yo saling stakes)
1. GLASTONBURY ......T Sprake 4-1 fev 

Also ran: 6-1 Mangus (4th), 9-1 Facile Tigre (5th), 10-1 State Of Caution (6th), 25-1 Ivory's Grab Hire (6th), 100-1 Last Chance. 8 ran. Nr. 11/L, 21/L, 11/L, 1/L. (T Miles, Epsorn). Tota: £3.30; £1.30, £2.30, £1.00. DF: £12.00 CSF: £23.63. Tricast: £41.17.

2.30: /tm Syo handicap) 1. LOVE DIAMONDS\_D McKeown 8-4 fev Questuary (4th), 10-1 Prince Consort (5th). 6 ran. 8, 1, 1, 4 10. (M Johnston, Middle-ham). Tota: \$2.50; \$1.20, \$1.60. DF: \$550. CSF: \$11.19.

3.00: (1m meiden stakes) P Fredericks 33-1 2. Woolly Winsome ......R Perham 10-1 3. Grand Coronet ......L Carter 14-1 Also ran: 4-1 fav Oudalmutsena, 9-2 Bravaccio, 6-1 Kentucky Bullet (6th), 5-1 Pacific Alliance (4th), 7-1 Tamashan, 10-1 Alarming Motown, 14-1 Silversmith (5th), 25-1 Queen's Hat.

11 ran 3 11/4 4 1/4 11/4 (Mass Gov Kea field) Tota: \$22.50; \$260, \$180 3.30: (im 2! apprentice handicap) 1. PHILISTAR P Dobbs 10-1 2. Key To The City S Carson 14-1 3. Kings Arrow R Fitzpetrick 7-2

Also ran; 9-4 fav Hawksbill Henry (4th), 4-1 Homestand (5th), 13-2 Genius, 11-1 Dancing-Alone (6th), 12-1 Mazeed, 16-

9 ran. 21/s, 1/s, hd, S. (K Burke, Newmar-let), Tota: £12.60; £3.80, £3.40, £1.00 DF: £38.20. CSF: £134.70. Tricast: £545.15. Trifecta: £801.00 Jackpot: \$1945100

Place 6: £261.31 Place 5: £18405.

■ Newcastle was abandoned because of snow and frost.

WOLVERHAMPTON 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

## Mujahid has chance in a millennium

HE INDEPENDENT

for the next stellar beast to Gerard, Mill Reef or Nijinsky, horses which thrilled us alseems, will go on for another the next superhorse."

According to the official assessment of last year's twoyear-olds there is little emerging before the millenium. At the International Classifications in London yesterday it was revealed that the leading juvenile bloodstock of 1998 was the best matched for many a year. The peleton is huge and

no-one has yet broken away: The ratings leader was the Dewhurst Stakes winner, Mujahid. But many of the Newmarket victims are at his voulder, within Brutus disnce. "I would be very surprised if there was a horse in this generation that proved massively superior," Matthew Tester, the British Horseracing Board's two-year-old handicapper, said. "We haven't got an outstanding horse.

"The Dewhurst didn't seem o settle the argument and even the horses we know, like Enrique and Stravinsky, look as

o offer. When they were itched into the Dewhurst, Enique, in particular, had never ed to fight or get in a battle. They can't all win the 2.000 uineas, but I believe that if you ook at the first four home in the Dewhurst it's possible they will di be rated higher next year. hey have all got more to come.

hey could all be top class, if not ال top class on the same day. We all look for the next suerhorse and that's why the Dewhurst was so hyped up be-

FIRST SHOW KEMPTON 2.55

Actic Charles 72 72 72 72 72 72

11: 12 Settemen D: 11-1 D-1 D-1 D-1

Doysess 14-1 15-1 20-1 15-1 15-1

Bosses HE Lad 204 204 201 201 201 201

Royal Arak 251 251 51 251

Sato The Day 254 251 251 201 251

H Heday 14. 22.1 23.1 23.1 25.1

Smugglers Pt 100-1 100-1 100-1 100-1 100-1

20-1 25-1 26-1 \$3-1 25-1

- 1 Tim

e units

Abrisic 141 2-1 14-1 14-1 12-1 

South Too 11-1 12-1 11-1 13-1

FILE LONGEST wait in racing is BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

come along, the next Brigadier cause you could make a case out for greatness for quite a few of them. But the answer is, at most 30 years ago. The wait, it this stage, that none of them is

Another set of figures hardly enhances Mujahid's prospects of winning the 2,000 Guineas. Of the last 17 juveniles likelihood of a champion to top the classifications, nine failed to win a Group One race at three. As the stock market investment caveat suggests, past performance is not necessari-

There is little succour either for Mujahid in the ante-post market. While the men who conduct the frigid, esoteric compilation of ratings may champion him, just about everyone else was more touched last year by Godolphin's Aljabr. That includes another bunch of cold hearts, the bookmakers, who have the Prix de la Salamandre winner as their winter favourite.

It will delight the layers that there is no horse with wings. Nothing kills betting like a longrange odds-on shot. "It's one of seen for a long time," Tester added. "You can go down the list and consider eight horses who hough they have got a lot more could win a Guineas. It's absolutely up for grabs."

Overall, it appears it was Just about all the classifications' category leaders compared badly with their predecessors, and the Classicwinning quintet of King Of Shahtoush and Nedawi are all considered below average.

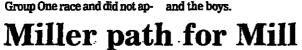
pear after his Queen Anne Stakes success at Royal Ascot because of splint problems.

There was no outstanding horse among the three-year olds, and the crop leader, David Loder's Queen Elizabeth II winner Desert Prince, is hardly burned lastingly in the common mind. Sagamix was well below the form which is usualde Triomphe and if they ran the race again over the pages of the classifications dossier High-Rise would come out on top.

Swain retires as perhaps the most versatile and consistent quality animal of the era. He has featured in four classifications rated at 122 or over and raced from 10 to 14 furlangs on dirt and turf. But the best older horse, and the best in the world, is reckoned to be another preparing for a breeding career in Kentucky, Skip Away.

The United States again provides a battery of horses both which are still around because of the beneficial prize-money across the Atlantic. And Amerthe most open winters we have ica is having a great impact in more ways than one. The classifications panel assessed about 900 horses from 14 nations during their nine-day sitting, and it seems to have told on some of them. Sheikh Mohardly a season to stimulate. hammed will certainly be surprised to read in the report that Godolphin's 1,000 Guineas winner Cape Verdi was trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam.

Perhaps this was the effect Kings, Cape Verdi, High-Rise, of desert sun at the conference's base in Tucson, Arizona. Perhans it was a consequence Apparently the best British of a trip to the High Chaparral horse to race last year was In- and slugs of redeye with big tikhab, who never contested a John Cannon, Buck, Manolito



TEETON MILL may try to em- pen in any race and if you have ulate the legendary Golden the right horse it shouldn't be Miller, who won the Grand Na- any more frightening than any tional and Gold Cup in 1934, by going for both races.

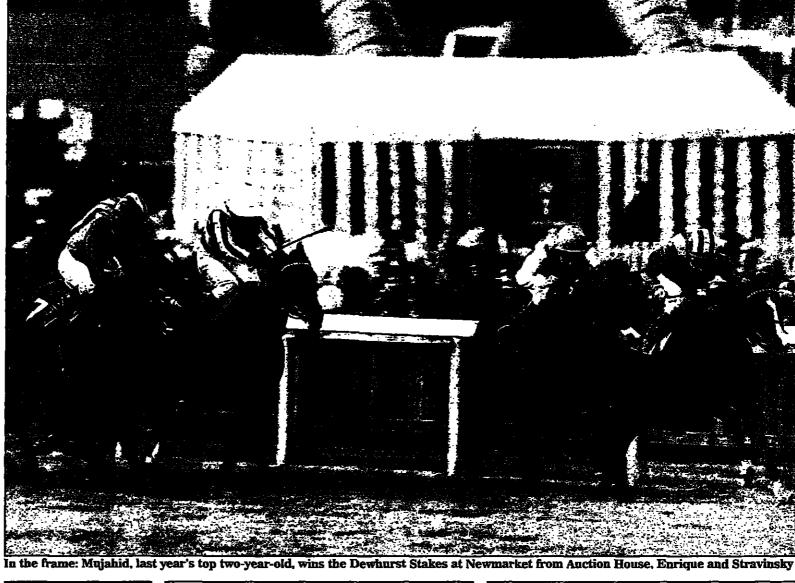
Teeton Mill's trainer, Venetia Williams, believes the grey, who runs next in the Pillar Chase at Cheltenham at the end of the month, will have no problems handling Aintree. Williams said: "Teeton Mill is joint favourite for the Gold Cup and three weeks after that race is the Grand National and that the Cheltenham race and then

could be an option as well." "Not really. I've ridden in the row's card at Wetherby is subrace myself. Accidents will hap- ject to a 3pm inspection today.

other race. He basn't done an awful lot since Kempton and we'll soon be building him up for

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Magic Circle (Kempton 4.00) NB: Jalb (Kempton 1.15)

for the Gold Cup." Asked whether she was Today's meeting at Sedge frightened of the demands of field was called off yesterday the National, Williams said: (frost and snow) and tomor-



IONAL	no Cilla	EAC C1	AKES (1	m)	
ATIONS Horse (Trainer)	Chest	EAS SI	Ladinina	Stanton	Tob
Allabr (Sated bin Surgor)	5-1	51	6-1	5-1	
OLTS Hujebid J Durice	81	7:1	81	7-1	<del></del>
Szavinsky (A O'Bnervin)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-
Commender Collins (P Cress		10-1	12-1		
				12-1	
Stack Rock Desert (A P OB		24		2:	
19 Enrique (H Cacil)	<u>2-1</u>	10-1	12-1	<b>2-1</b>	14
118 Orpen (A P O'Bries/Iri)	14-1	14-1	10-1	16-1	*
.118 Jost Algarhoud (M Charmon	14-1	<b>4</b> 1	16-1	14-1	X
7 Auction House (8 Hills)	141	21	16-1	16-1	10
5 (Ritch (Seed by Surpor)	20-1	16-1		<b>15-1</b>	
Ballet Master (H Cocil)	20-1	20-1	16-1	20-1	
Killer Instinct (H Cacil)	161	16·1	25-1	<b>B</b> 1	18
Debai Millerium (C Loder Fr)		23-1			— <u>₹</u>
		33-1			
Saffron Walden (A P O'Bren/	<del></del>			<del></del> -	:
Maldaan (M Channon)		25-1	33-1	33-1	:
Berliox (D Loder/R)	33-1	33-1		33-1	
Indian Danehill (A Febrefri)	33-1	33-1	33-1		
Mulchalif (1) Loder(Fr)	33-1	33-1	33-1		
Raise A Grand (J Payne)	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	
Tchallowsky (A P O'Brien/M)	33-1	33-1	33-1		
13 Jahansa (D Lode/Fr)	20-1	33-1	40-1	33-1	
Brancaster (P Chample-Hyam		40-1	33-1	_ <del></del>	25-
12   <del></del>			Howmanies Separa		=

Horse (Trans)	Const	Wim HE	Ladordies	Stanley	Total
Blot Alloyi (A Chemon)	4-1	5-1	5-1	92	5-1
Blonic (H Cecil)	5-1	5-1	7-1	6-1	5-1
Etizado (J Dunispi)	16-1	14-1	14-1	18-1	2:
Edablya (J. Oxodri)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Kareymen (O Loder/Fr)	16-1	20-1	16-1	16-1	20-1
Moleva (Mine C Head/Fr)	20-1	12-1	12-1	14-1	12-1
Superpengled (A P O'Brien/M)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-
Calando (D LodenFr)	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1	25-1
Crystal Chares (P Chapple-Hyem)	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1
Hula Angel (B Hils)	33-1	33-1		25-1	
KString (Seeed bin Surcorr)	33-1	25-1	20-1	20-1	
Mother Of Peerl (P Chapple-Hyam)	25-1	33-1	25-1	33-1	_
Oriental Festion (Seeed on Surror)	_	33-1	33-1	25-1	25-1
Septema (D Lode/Fr)	16-1	20-1	33-1	20-1	25-1
Wannabe Grand (J Noseda)	20-1	25-1	33-1	33-1	25-1
Alabaq (J Dunlop)	<b>25-1</b>	33-1	40-1		
Circle Of Gold (P Chappie-Hyars)		33-1	40-1	<b>35-1</b>	_
Carambole (A P (Terenini)	33-1	40-1	40-T		33-1
Fedry Clustern (D LodenFr)	20-1	33-1	4C-1	<b>25-1</b>	
Maghzarb (N Tragoring)	40-1	33-1	40-1		
illythical (Girl (D Locies/Fr)	33-1	33-1	40-1		
Colden Siles (M. Chermon)	461	33-1	50-1		

	DERBY	STAKES	(1m 4f)					
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	Wm Hill	Ladbrokes	Stanley	Total			
Commander Collins (P Chap	ple-Hyamt 8-1	10-1	10-T	9-1	10-1			
Dubai Millenkum (D Loder/Fr	15-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	20-1			
Aljatur (Saeed bin Susoon)	20-1	151	26-1	<b>16-1</b>	25-1			
Bienemado (P Chapple-Hyan	ų 14-1	dot	20-1	16-1	25-1			
Monthey (J. Hammond/Fr)		25-1		25-1				
Rhagras (D Loder/Fr)	20-1	16-1	20-1	25-1	25-1			
Strawinsky (A P O'Brien/kt)	20-1	25-1	_	dbt	25-1			
Ballet Master (H Cecil)	<b>25-1</b>	33-1	33-1	23-1	25-1			
Brasiciater (P Chapple-Hyam	) 33-1	33-1	_	<b>25-1</b>	33-1			
Dalispour (L.Cumani)	25-1	<u>ක</u> 1	25-1	25-1	33-1			
Enrique (H Cecit)	33-1	33-1		<b>5</b> 1	33-1			
Glamis (3 Gosden)	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1			
Killer Instinct (H Cecil)	33-1	33-1	33-1	dx	33-1			
Madazalnab (E Dunicop)	25-1	33-1		<b>25-1</b>	25-1			
Satiron Walden (A P O'Bren)	in) 33-1	33-1	_	25-1	33-1			
Tchalkovsky (A P O'Brien(h)	20-1	33-1		33-1	20-1			
Bostman (R Charlion)	33-1	40-1		33-1	40-1			
Colineum (A P O'Brien/M)	25-1	33-1	40-1	33-1	33-1			
Genghis Khen (A P O'Brien/M	) 33-1	40-1	40-1	33-1	40-1			
Musikwill (D Loder/Fr)	33-1	20-1	25-1	25-1	40-1			
Peace Of Mind (R Charlion)	33-1	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1			
Tenaha (D Locke/Fr)	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	40-1			
Touch "N" Ply (H Cecil)	40-1	33-1	50-1	33-1	40-1			
Urben Ocean (A P 03nen/in)	40-1	40-1	50-1	40-1	50-1			
Each-wa	Each-way a current the colds, places 1, 2, 3 (Ensorn, Saturday, 5 June)							

OAK	S STAI	KES (1m 4	<i>i</i> 1)	
Horse (framer)	Coral	Win HE	Stanley	Tota
Bradiya (J Crojki)	10-1	10-1	<b>10</b> -1	12-1
Calando (D Loder Fri)	10-1	16-1	16-1	18-1
Śwytama (D Loder/Fr)	14-1	12-1	14-1	16-1
Sunspangled (A P O'Bren/M)	10-1	14-1	16-1	10-1
Killing (B Hills)	20-1	14-1	24-1	8-1
Bionic (H Ceal)	25-1	<b>16</b> .1	20-1	20-1
Etizate (J Dunlop)	25-1	16-1	20-1	16-1
Mother Of Pearl (P Chapple-Hyam)	20-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Hasitation (6 Hills)	25-1	33-1	33-1	20-1
Kristing (Sir Lächael Stoute)	33-1		33-1	
Peach Dut Of Reach	33-1		33-1	
Royal Highness (H Caci)	33-1		33-1	
Subito (L. Curran)	<b>6</b> 1	25-1	35-1	
Valentine (Siri (B Hills)	33-1	50-1	20-1	20-1

#### Each way a quader for orish, places 1, 2, 3, 4 S. C Coral, H. William Ht. L. Ladoroles, S. Stayley, T Total

KEMPTON 2.55 Native Field

1.15 Norlandic 3.25 Executive King 1 50 Nuvellino 2.20 NATIVE CHARM (nap) 4.00 Magic Circle

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

E Right-hand course. Separate straight course for 5t and 6t races. Practically flat. Running of 200yds.

E Course is on A308 at Sunbury. Kempton Park railway station adjoins course. ADMISSION:CUL 6 Trainersis \$10 (16 to 25-year-olds 53): Silver Ring \$5. Accompared chidren under-16 free. CAR PARK: Members car park 55; rest Free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

TO LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 20-72 (273%), N Henderson 15-76 (211%), R (Inter 15-44 (341%), N Terriston-Davies 10-55 (82%), D Sharwood 9-42 (244%).

E LEADING COCKEYS: M A Fitzgerald 25-320 (203%), J Oeborne 23-77 (289%), A Maguira 20-81 (247%), A Thomston 19-56 (333%), R Dunwoody 19-95 (20%).

E FAVOURITES: 124-301 (412%).

B LINKERED FIRST TIME: Sabre Butt (150), Doyenne (2.55).

-5	_		
	1	.15	ROYAL MAIL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (E) £3,500 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,766
	1	O/P-00	MUTANASSEB (15) (Malcolm B Jones) M Pipe 8 11 10G Supple
	ż	209-10	RASSI RETP. ECTION (13) (David Cross Lagure Ltd) C Weedon 7 11 7
į,	_	DOC.10	CHARLIE BANKER (13) (BF) (D R A C Partnersho) K Burke 7 tl 4
-	-	40400	SHADIRWAN (15) (C.L. Pophen) C Pophen 8 11 0 O MicPhell
		-2400	NORLANDIC (NZ) (25) (RF) (The Til House Partnership) P Hobbs 7 10 TO _R Wisger (3)
٠.	>	843-00	RESIDENCE (RE) (2) (C) (III) I CALLED TO BE AND THE COLOR OF THE COLOR
:-	6	630/P-	MACIC COMBRIATION (PES) (Ms B J Curley) B Curley 6 10 7
÷	7	40-502	ELIBRINATE (7) (J.S.Court) D.OBren 6 10 1
٩.		0-053	77799772 (18) (H J M Webb) H Webb 7 100
.;	-	2029P2	TIFASI (140) (M S E M Partnersho) M Willerson 9 10 0 R Massey
•	ž.	P.00	LAJ S. 1130 (Family And French) P Marchy 5 100
			ANOTHER CHANCER (12) (DR Gardolo Ltd) D Gardolo 8 100 Husband
	11	rassi	MAN INEN CHARGES (12) In a contract property of a contract of the contract of
	12	53-255	CERTAIN SURPRISE (13) PARs H Veal) M Madgreck 5 10 0
÷	13	/0-454	THE CROPPY 90Y (14) (Winerbourne Plant Ltd) J Neville 7 100
,	-		- 13 declared -
	نىء	خوی مین	we ther Time teachers uninitis: Tilise Sei 13th, Jelb 9st 10th, Another Chancer 9et 9th,

Minimum velight: 10st. True handicap weights: Tiles set 13th, Jaib 8st 10th, Another Chance / Centern Surprise 8st 8th, The Coppy Boy 8st 6th

BETTING: 11-4 Nortendic, 5-1 Charile Benther, 11-2 Hambrate, 6-1 Jaib, 10-1 Tilest, Trym

1 Hangic Combination, 12-1 Another Chancer, Resh Rediscition, 14-1 Matternassib, 20-1 oth

1988: Royal Arctic 8 10 0 C Webb 7-1 (S Melor) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE HUHMI GUIDE

Mutanassib: Formerly smart (toth in 1997 friumph) but nothing since and beaten 48 lengths when 7th of 8 to Time For Action at Eurition (2mt) cond heap g/s) latest Rash Reflection: Kibeggan 2m3/ majden winner in June, but tailed off when pulled up 2 out in Artic Ground's race at Warwick (2m3/ nov heap, soft) on British debut Charrise Bankler: Rasked 8th after lending gamble by 12 lengths on Windox 2mt/ reappearance but pulled up when 11-8 fav for Artic Ground's race at Warwick (2m3/ nov heap note, soft) next time. Weighted with a chance but difficult to predict Shadinwaru: Placed once in 10 hurdle starts but in decline and broke blood vessel when

inde, soft) next time. Weighted with a citance but difficult to predict.

Shadirwan: Placed one in 10 hundle starts but in decline and broke blood vessel when tailed off tim of in the Skopper at Taumon@m set hicap, g/s) lettest.

Nortandle: Disappointing favounte on heavy ground latest but weighted to go close on previous 20 lengths 5th to Rios King in a strong novice event at Chepstow (2mit g/s). Probably worth another citance, provided the going is not testing.

Magic Combination: Best form when 3rd to Three Farthings at Lingsled 23 months ago, but well beaten both starts since and one to be wary of unless market is positive. Rusminate: Good placings from this mark and 5th higher last term and fair 5 lengths 2nd lituminate: Good placings from this mark and 5th higher last term and fair 6 lengths 2nd lituminate: Good placings from this mark and 5th higher last term and fair 6 lengths 2nd lituminate: Good placings from this mark, and 5th higher last erm and fair 6 lengths 2nd lituminate; Good placings from this mark and 5th higher last month but fiel steet and has plently to find off 3th higher mark. Hargin 2nd lituminate from the first from t

or improvement in the least state of VERDICT: Listle recent form to go on, so give another chance to NORLANDIC, who looks well in on his 5th to Rols King at Warwick in a race that has produced several witness. Heavy ground was blamed for his subsequent poor effort. Charite Banker is the main danger, but Jaib, a useful middle-distance Flat handicapper, is capable of better

			-		
1	.50	WALTON HUI Penalty Value	RDLE (CLASS £2,814	D) £4,000 a	idded 4YO 2m
1	0	DANCING DERVISH	(16) The Felix Bourses	s Partnershiol S Meli	or 10 10
ė	æ	LAFFAH (USA) (12)	Richard Green (Fine Pa	ninosi) M Pipe 10 10	A P McCay
3		MASAMADAS (F110	(Thurles Thoroughbee)	is NV N Henderson 1	0 10M A Pitzgerald
•		MINELLING (PSH) (T	he Cockoll Crewl P Hot	mbs 10 m	R Dumwoody
5		PAGASONEC (BFL) (	F630 fG Gaernicul G L	Moore 10 10	P Hide
Ř		REVER BEAT (FROM IC	Improvement Sales, A. Mr.	aketing) K Rurka 10 1	D N Willamen
7		SABRE BUTT (F6) (F	aceworld) M Tomoldrs	10 10	A Maguiro B
9		SCARLET PIMPERN	EL (F141) (Heterd Han	nbro) N Twiston-David	6 10 10 C Llewellyn
9	00	UK MAGIC (4) (UK F	acisoino Sucoles Lidi	J Jantars 10 10	J Osborne
•	20220	WALE DOWN NO. IT	on End Cartering Man I	U Strainte en en	) Proffesor

THREE-YEAR-OLD

THREE-YEAR-OLD

FOUR-YEAR-OLD AND

UPWARDS COLTS

FOUR-YEAR-OLD AND

UPWARDS FILLIES

TURF SPRINTERS

TURF STAYERS

Kayl Tars (Seeed tin Suroor) \_\_\_ Cateric (J Dunlop) \_\_\_ Double Trigger (M Johnston) \_\_\_

FORM GUIDE

Dencing Dervish: Moderate mile winner on the Flat. Needs something a lot better than his hurdes debut 7th of 9 to New Bird over CID (gs) last month. Lettath: Ex-tohm Gooden Plat melden. Cut little ice when distant 2nd to Norski Lad at Exeter (2mtf nov heavy) latest and appears Biely to find track and trip too sharp Masamades: Windoor fin3f winner for Chris Wall in May, thetresting recruit from yard with a strong hand of juvenile hurders, but best form on a fast surface. Nuvellino: Soft-ground fm2f handicap winner for Rod Milman in October, Interesting furdies debutant from the yard of Naverre Samson. Durwoody booking significant pagesconia: vn3f winner in Beigium in Sept. First run for new yard and market lifelity to provide a fair guide to his chance on jumps debut. River Beat? Pick of field on Flat form, landing early-seeson four-timer for Mark Tompkins, up to \$10.2. Acts on easy surface and interesting newcomer from in-form yard. Sabre Butt: Plating class 7f. 1ff melden on Flat. From yard that produced useful first-timer Royal Castle on Microtay, but birkers not a good sign. Scarlet Pitagnemel: Useful milet on the Flat in France for Criquette Head, One to note on hurdes debut, but stable juveniles proving a moderate bunch so far. U K Magic: Tailed off both hurdes start and little obvious chance. Wave Rock: Improving with every race and one-paced 15 lengths 3rd of 11 to Dangerus Precedent at Cheltenham (2mtf nov g/s) latest, but shorter trip and sharper track could present problems. Acts on easy surface.

VERDICT: Wave Rock, yet to be out of the money in five hurdies starts, is the one to beat, but recent efforts suggest his future les over farther. It seems quite likely he will be outspeeded by one of the newcomers, of whom Masamadas, Scarlet Pimpernal, Nuvellino and the profife RIVER BEAT appear the likely pick.

2.20 EASTER HERO HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2m Penalty Value £5,420

BETTRIG: 2-1 Ketive Charm, 4-1 Buckland Led, 9-2 Robins Prido, 5-1 Sierra Bay, 6-1 Maratock,

1998: Morstock 8 10 8 T Descombe 9-4 tex (R Hodges) 8 ran-FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

Sterm Bay: Unpredictable customer who files to dominate. Below best latest and could struggle to confirm Towcester form with Buckland Led on 8th worse terms for 8 lengths Montaoet: Only success in three years when warning this race 12 months agd, from 4th higher. Patr 9 lengths 2nd to Robins Pride at Wincanton (2m hoap, heavy) last month and 8th bester with wirner here, but still looks vulnerable to improver Native Charm: Impressive winner of novice chases at Pumpton and Warwick, big previous scorer River Wiye 4 lengths last time, Jumps well and open to improvement. Robins Pride: Not a convincing fencer, but useful on his day. 7th higher here after 9 lengths win over Morshock at Wincanton (2m) and could be pressed to confirm the placings over these more difficult fences. Buckleard Lad: Signify disappointing sort, but weighted to reverse Towcester running with Stern Bay on 8th better terms for 8 lengths and set to confirm the previous form with Robins Pride. Lightly raced and possible improver. Quango: Sedgefield novice winner last term. Furning fairly consistently but late 10 lengths when 3rd of 7 to Oceal An Docas at Huntingdon (2m hoap soft) and possibly still a shade high in the weights, despite 3th drop.

VERDICT: NATIVE CHARM looks a smart chasing recruit and had little trouble best-ing previous scorer River Wiye at Warwick. Her bold jumping should put unwelsome much pressure on the temperenental Sterre Bay, but she could find herself tecing a sterner challenge from Buckland Lad, who boasts a high strike-rate and is on a handy mark.

2	2.55	WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 27,500 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £5,504
1	116-11	NATIVE FIELD (32) (see Johnson) D Write 10 11 10
2		SMITH TOO (32) (CD) (Arthur Smith) Mrs J Pitman 11 11 3
3	Om-2	LANSDOWNE (184) (D) (BF) (Nick Shutts) Mes K Marks 11 11 2doublist
4	0-U122	BE MY MOT (18) (CD) (A Winchester & Son) D Grissell 7 ft 1
5	24-208	BROWNES HELL LAD (48) (Mrs. Barbara Warchard) R O'Sulvan 7 to 1 M A Fizgerald
6	613103	SULAWEST (18) (C) Linck Joseph N Twiston-Daves 6 11 D Goldstein (5)
7	2-411	ARCTIC CHANTER (34) (D) (Exp Valey Pacety) P Hobbs 7 10 9
B		SEIZE THE DAY (18) (Mrs N M Coombe) M Coombe 71 10 8 Miss M Coombe
9	0350/4	TINA (7) (CD) (P W Piper) J Jenkins 9 10 8
10	32045	WONTCOSTALCTBUT (29) (Wortcostalct Partnersho) M Wildreson 5 to 6, W Marston
11	-51242	WELSH SILK (13) (Mrs D E Blackshaw) D Gandolio 7 105
2	5-03P	DOYENNE (32) (Grev Mare Partnersho) Mrs D Haine 5 10 5
19	13F/12	ATAMISTIC (7th Mrs JE Emery, Mr A Staple, Mr E Morris) P Hobbs 7 103 R Widger (5)
14	2-5343	ANOTHER NIGHT (13) (BF) (Sunset Partnershap) P Murphy 5 10 2
15	1F-3P2	SOPHE MAY (29) (J Danels) D Morrs 8 to 0
16	3-5460	ROYAL ARCTIC (28) (C) (D) (? D.) Syder) S Meltor 9 10 0
17	P1/P4U	HI HEDLEY (5) (C) (C) A Hubbard G Hubbard 9 10 0 A Maguire
28	5-5506	SMUGGLER'S POINT (USA) (29) (J F Walls) J Bridger 9 10 0 M Batchelor (5) V
_		- 18 declared -
Min	inum weig	ht. 10st. True handicap weights: Royal Actic 9st 12th, Hi Hedley 9st 7th, Smuggler's Pont 8st 3th.

Each-way a custory the origin, places 1, 2, 3 Meumenter, Sunday 2 May

BETTINGS 7-2 Arctic Chemier, 11-2 Bit My Mot, 8-1 Native Fleid, 10-1 Sophie May, Weist St. Leases, 11-1 Smith Too, Subrews, 14-1 Bit My Mot, 8-1 Native Fleid, 10-1 Sophie May, Weist St. Leases, 11-1 Smith Too, Subrews, 14-1 Whotcosteriothut, Attendatic, 16-1 Another Hight, Royal Ide, 20-1 Oppanna, Browners Hill Laut, 25-1 Tim, Hill Healiny, Sabor The Day, 100-1 Snauggler's F1888. Tompetoo 7 til 0 C Lienellyn 3-1 Szr (N Texason-Davies) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Native Field: Raised 6b for his win at Haydock (2m71/4, soft) last month and meets Smith Too (3rd) on 7to worse terms for 81/2 lengths. Probably still on the upgrade and should stay this stightly longer trp

Smith Too: Held by Native Field on their running at Haydock last time. Front-runner and will find it hard to make all in such a competitive event lansdowner. One-time fair handicap hardier, and stays, this trip, but runs in claimers now. Calmed out of Paul Nicholsty year after finishing 2nd at Wolverhampton in July. Doubtful Be My Mot: Won over cycl (soft) in November, but runs off an 11ib higher mark. Caught on the run-in when 1/2 length 2nd to Desting Dollar at Windsor (21/4m, good) next time and meets Doyerine (3rd) on 7th worse for 1/4 length.

Brownes Hill Lad: Useful novice last season, returned to hurdles after 2 runs over tences when 6th at Eauton (2m3f, good) in November. Thes this trip for the first time and doubt about he stamber.

gbour he stamine Suiswest Successful twice here (2mSi) and weakaned at the final light when 3rd to Melody Maid and Be My Mot here over this trip last month. Btn 9 langths by the 2nd and is only The Dentactor: Much improved this season, but on a 22th higher mark than when win-ning a seller at Eveter (2mil, soft) in November. Won his next 2 races (2mil & 3mil/d) eas-by and may still be ahead of the handicapper Selze The Day: Won 3 times tast season at distances up to 2m8t. Usually held up by his

measur rider and has been dropped 5th since making no show on reappearance at Wincenton lest month

Tim: Well handicapped on old form as he is 12th lower than when whining over c/d as a

6yo. Missed last season and tailed off after the 3rd on his reappearance when bith a dis-

Turce at Leloscter last week
Wontcostalotbut: Weakened 2 out when 5th to Sorblere at Folkestone (2m 6f, soft) last month and only 3to better off with Sophie May (2nd) for 31 lengths. Close 4th to Deshing Dollar at Windsor in November and has a 4to pull with Be My Mot (2nd) for 11/1 lengths. Welch Silk: Pipped Wortcostelot by hid in the last stride at Chepstow (21/4m, g/s) in October. Meets the 2nd on the same terms, but has yet to win over this trip and is 5tb above

his highest whining mark
Doyenne: Well handicapped with Be kly Mot, but ran wall below form (struggling 4 out)
when pulled up at Donnaster (2m4t, good) last month. Has shown signs of temperament

when pulled up at Doncaster (2m4t, good) last month. Has shown signs of temperaturent and is binkered for the first time. Attributed from long layoff to win at Fontwell (2m6t, good) in October (now 9lb higher). Has not run for 10 weeks, but goes well fresh and likely to stay this longer tro Another Nighte Outle consistent at distances up to 21/m. Had some stiff tasks last sees on before winning a novices' handicap at Chepstow (2m, soft) and unpreven at this trip Sophile May: Soem to appreciate the return to hundles when running Sorbiere to a nix at Folkestone (2m6t, soft) last month with 15 Hedley 4th, Wontcostalot 5th and Smuggler's Point 6th. Only 1lb higher, but this looks much tougher. Royal Arctic: Has not taken to fences this season, but won twice over hundles last year, including over 2m5t (soft) here. Chance on his 3rd at Cheltenham (3m, heavy) in April (Wests Sik 6th and 10lb worse off). Hedley: Weekened 2 out when 4th to Sorbiers at Folkestone (24/m, soft) last month and 10lb worse off for 30 lengths with Sophie May (2nd). Tough task 7th out of handicap smuggler's Point Lost touch from the 6th when distant (bth 39 lengths) 6th to Sorbiers at Folkestone (27/m, soft) last month. Has not won for nearly 2 years and remote chance 25to out of the handicap.

VERDICT: Arctic Chanter goes from strength to strength and strugged off a 13th hite in the handleap to complete a hal-trick at Taumton less time. Another 8th may not stop han here, but as the will be at a relatively short price in a competitive race a chance is taken with ROYAL ARCTIC. Disappointing over lances that season, he loves the mucl and does not look badly treated on his best form over hundles.

3.25	HANWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 3m Penalty Value £5,472
	accect 3m Penanty Value 15,472 (DRG LUCIFER 25) (D) (Art A J Davies) D Nicholson 10 11 10
1P1-PP	RAMALLAH (ZZ) (D) (The Madera Green Partnersho) Mass H Kright 10 11 1 Cullidity
25-131	BANK AVENUE (88) (CD) (\$ D Hemstock) M Parren 8 10 10
- 131100	Decome that (19) (07) (07) the body of the body

Each-way a quarter the oxide, places: 1, 2, 3 (Epson, Friday, 5 June)

-4 declared BETTING: 13-6 Executive King, 9-4 King Luciter, 7-2 Bank Avenue, 5-1 Remailah 1998. Sell By The Stars 9 11 1 S Wyrne 7-2 (T Forster) 9 ren FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

King Lucifer: Useful novice in 1966 and won an amateurs' chase off 13th higher mark tollowing year. Missed last term, but shaped as if back to form in both outings this term Ramellah: Successful 4 times over tences last year, but pulled up in both outings this season, is 3b above his highest wrinning mark and best watched until showing more sparkle season, is 9b above his highest wrinning mark and best watched until showing more sparkle season, is 9b above his highest wrinning mark and best watched until showing more sparkle season. It is shown to be a short run since and ground may be against him Executive Kings Juniped well to beat useful novice Lord Off the River If lengths at Lingfield (3m, soft) last month. Disappointed when distant 4th to that horse here (3m, g/s) need three and 15th higher than when witning at Newbury (3m, g/s) in November. VERDICT: Bank Avenue has 12-week absence to overcome and KING LUCIFER can take advantage of his drop on the handloap. He looked in need of the outing at Ascot.

4	.00	ASHFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,944
1	14	LAWAYEK (18) (D) (Jack Joseph) C Marin 5 11 B
ż	100	DAVOSKI (48) (D) (BF) (Robert Ogden) Miss V Williams 5 ft 4 R Disturbody
ā	1	FERN'S GOVERNOR (22) (0) (J Chesney) M Pipe 7 to 13 A P McCoy
4		CARLTON (F80) (City Sickers) N Tweston-Davies 5 10 12
5		HIGH GAME (C.F. Sparrowheek) G.L. Moore 5 to 12P Hide
5		LEGENDARY LOVER (F495) (Come Racing Ltd) J. Jenkins 5 10 12
7	551.5	MAGIC CIRCLE (18) (D) (T Bertield & W Brown) N Henderson 7 to 12 M A Fitzgerald
Ř		MALBAUM (GER) (F101) (D & Bridgester) D Bridgester 5 to 12
ē		MORE FUN (USA) (F1000) (M C Banks) M Banks 6 to 12
10	05-	NORDINEX (F48) (A J Byrns) P Hayward 7 10 12
π	LI 1312/	ORPHAN CILLY (853) (R H York) R York 9 10 12
12	46	OTHER CLUB (15) (The Other Clubbers) J Portmen 5 to 12
19	ο'n	YOUNG MAZAAD (F3S) (Mrs S Herris) D O'Bhen 6 10 12
14	6.0	GOLDEN FAWN (F12) (Backmore Stevens) M Hayres 6 10 7 J Goldstein (5)
£		MISCONDUCT (13) (The Playmetes) Mrs M Jones 5 10 7 A Maguire
Ĕ	777782	MY LISA TOO (41) Jian E Frahi A McNae 10 107
17	444	SLIPSTREAM STAR (200) (Mrs S Tainton) N Twiston-Davies 5 10 7
.,	56-	SLPS (HEAR STAR (APP) (MES START) N (MESCH DATES S U / USE SOUTH

BETTING: 3-1 Magic Circle, 7-2 Fem's Governor, 9-2 Devosid, 6-1 Lawahib, 8-1 My Lisa Too, 10-1 Misconduct, 12-1 Cartino, 14-1 High Fame, 15-1 others
1998: Road Paper 5 11 4 J A McCarthy 7-4 tor (P R Wabber) 14 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Laweinlik: Made a successful start to his jumping career at Haydock (2m, soft) last month. Had Magic Circle (5h better off for 1/s length) in 5th when 4th in here next time. Devosid: Has taken well to hurding and has just a 6th penalty after winning 3 times. Showed he acts on soft ground at Newton Abbot in November. Experience will give him an edge Ferm's Governor: Made all to win easily by \$1 lengths on her hurding debut at Ludiow (2m, g/s) last month. Raced mainly on fast ground on the flat. Cartion: Won twee on the Flat (6f & 7f) and stays Im. Acts on any going and usually ran at himbert flates. Therefore the territing debut.

Carition: Won twice on the Rat (6f & 7f) and stays Im. Acts on any going and usually ran in birkers. Yough task on hurding debut out of a Run The Gantlet mare Legendary Lover: Meaden on the Rat, missed last season and was placed once (10f malden) from 5 outings in 1987 when trained by Roger Charlian Ratios on the Rat, missed last season and was placed once (10f malden) from 5 outings in 1987 when trained by Roger Charlian Ratios in 1987 and sold for 50,000 gms. Promising debut over hurdies when 5th to stablishmate Gregian Dart hare (2m, g/s) last month Matthause: Won 4 times on the Ratio Remainly at distances up to 11/sm. Finished 4th on his last outing at Hanover (10t, soft) in October
Nore Func Unraced getting by Sanglamore out of a Sham mare
Nordineic Appeared not to stay 2m when unplaced in both outings over hurdies last season. Moderate handleapper on the AW
Orpham Othy: Won 2 point to-points as a 7yor, but has not run since March, 1987 when a

Nordines: Appeared not to stay an when unusuable in count usuals over nursual seat the son. Moderate handleapper on the AW Orphan Oilly: Won 2 point-to-points as a 7yo, but has not run since March, 1997 when a distant 2nd of 4 at Hackwood Park (2m). Novice classes more his mark. Other Cubic Won twee on the AW (1m) last season when trained by James Toller. Modest form in 2 novice hurdled at Taurison and will have to improve considerably Young Mazusaid: Won over 61 as a 3ye, upintly raced since. Promise on only run over hurdles that year, but tailed off 4 out when foth of 11 at Leicester (2m, g/s) last mornin Golden Faver. Maiden on the Flat and dropped back from the 4th when tailed off 10th of 14 behind Grecian Dart (My Lea Too 2nd) at Windsor (2m, g/s) test morth Misconduct: Won 3 times on the Flat last season at up to 10 when trained by Gary Moore. Never troubled leaders when 7th of 19 on hurdling how at Warwick (2m, soit) last month My Lias Too: Lightly raced and much improved performance at Windsor (2m, soit) last month when 2nd to Grecian Dart. May be suited by farther. Sipstream Star: Placed 4 times from 7 outings when last raced on the Flat in 1997. Disappointing on both outings over hurdles last season and has not run since April VERIDICTE MAGGIC CIRCLE caucht the eye on his first run over hurdles hard last month.

VERDICT: MAGIC CIRCLE caught the eye on his first run over hurdles here last month

## Focused England stick to game plan

ANY COACH whose side has knocked over their most formidable foes and the world By STEPHEN BRENKLEY champions in tight contests on consecutive days has a right to suspect his strategy may be bearing fruit. David Lloyd played it deadpan.

"I still think there's more to be more in the face than they have been repeating these phrases from some limited edition volume available only to those in the occupation of a doddle. oreparing sportsmen for battle. It is quite obviously a private language but a rough translation in this instance is that England must maintain their concentration and refuse to be distracted by any little ploys the

opposition might pull. Lloyd is making the demands of his charges in the wake of the back-to-back victories in Brisbane over first the Carlton & United Series. His hard work early England did

cautious response to the unlikely scenario that they would be two up after two with eight to play probably derived come," he said. "I want them to from the fact that he has been with England for long enough are, to hustle more." He must to know that if they can come from behind when it is too late, as they have done frequently, then peaking too soon should be

> But England have paraded some important qualities of stoicism and nerve this week which are invaluable if close one-dayers are to be won. It augurs well that they have done so while both bowling second and batting second. Australia were behind but. never quite out of it last Sunday with Michael Bevan, the most proficient one-day batsman around, still in. Having done the

stayed accurate the fielding was tigerish.

The run out of Shane Warne by Mark Alleyne, moving sharply and gracefully to his weaker side, was a lovely example of accuracy under severe pressure. Alleyne was not only making his debut at the age of 30 but earlier in the evening had made a hash of fielding a ball, twice slipping and stumbling over as he recovered it, much to the crowd's cruel amusement. Norman Wisdom to Fred Astaire is never an easy transformation to pull off but Alleyne

On the following evening Sri Lanka should have made more than 207 and England should have passed the total more easily. There was some concern that it would rain which briefly required more haste than the pursuers would have liked but at the last they retained enough of their composure. Muttiah

not let it slip. If the bowling Muralitharan almost created in time. But it was again to Alleyne's credit that, despite being utterly mystified, a man who looked as though he was trying to enter Fort Knox with the side have fight left in them. a nail file and wondered why the Coming so soon after another lock wouldn't turn, still kept plodding patiently on. The reborn Neil Fairbrother, of course, did the rest.

#### **Wasim for Smethwick**

A LEAGUE cricket club which usually attracts around 100 spectators is celebrating landing the current Pakistan Test captain, Wasim Akram, as its

overseas professional. The Birmingham Premier League outfit Smethwick have lured the 33-year-old allrounder for the new season, and he is due to assume his duties as soon as Pakistan's involvement in this summer's World

It is rare for a side to win not angered the Australian havoc, just running out of overs twice on successive nights at public, which is hardly besotted Brisbane in this series, not least because of the oppressive heat. To do so in such close matches as England did shows Ashes series which might not have been a débácle but which was nevertheless won and lost comfortably has dismayed but

Smethwick, founded 150 years ago, have also signed the former Warwickshire player Asif Din as captain. He has recently been playing minor counties cricket with Shropsbire.

Smethwick's former players include the England legend Sidney Barnes, the Australian Test batsman Steve Waugh, the former Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Mohammed and the ex-England and Warwickshire opener Dennis Amiss.

with its own team at present. Betting scandals are part of the reason, but there is also a distinct impression that they feel the players have become too big for their boots. In Australia they cut tall poppies

This has not prevented immense interest in the series. The Gabba has been packed on three occasions. More than 17,000 watched Queensland play England last Friday and Australia play England on Sunday, while more than 12,000 turned up to watch England against Sri Lanka. The first meeting between Sri Lanka and the hosts at Sydney was a 40,000 sell-out and nearly 80,000 are expected in Melbourne on Friday for England v Australia,

Lloyd has clearly warmed to the notion of the protracted triangular series which has been rubbished in some

quarters as advancing the cause of tedious cricket although patently not on the evidence here so far. The point is, apart from skilful marketing and crowd appeal, that the best team wins in a long contest.

"It's good," said Lloyd. "T've never been part of a triangular series before unless you count last summer and that was just everybody playing each other once. Then we played Sri Lanka again in what was supposed to be a final Here it'll be like a five-match Test series. Over the period you'll get the

England's strategy for the World Cup in England in May is already in place, if not the personnel. That, Lloyd explained, was the thinking behind using as many players as they had lately. They wanted to examine different individuals for similar roles, to

find first-choices and possible replacements. Their work may be nearly done.

"The old dressing room adage is go at 10 an over for the first 15 overs with the fielding restrictions, don't take any risks and don't lose any wickets," said Lloyd, conjuring up a kind of one-day Elysian field. "The other teams all want to do the same, score quickly at first. consolidate in the middle while the board ticks over, and hit at the end. But you've got to find inso les mer rity

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the players to do it." England are relaxed, a mood which always pervades a winning team, so there is still time for them to be exceedingly tetchy by next week. But the Ashes genuinely seems to have been out behind them.

Maybe it was a fluke with the players coming from the Test side but we had a word and there hasn't been any looking backwards," Lloyd said.

Fast forward to taking on Australia in front of 80,000 at the MCG on Friday then and you cannot get much more in your

## IOC stands by Salt Lake City

THE International Olympic Committee confirmed yesterday that the 2002 Winter Games would remain with Salt Lake City despite allegations of bribery and corruption levelled at some of the organisers.

Officials in the American city have admitted paying for the housing, travel and education of relatives of IOC members as well as giving expensive gifts and free health care. Yesterday the IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier said: "The IOC has made it clear the Games will not be withdrawn from Salt

by Switzerland's veteran IOC quences." city might lose the Games because of a \$350m (£216m) shortfall resulting from the scandal were made in a personal capacity and she denied there were financial problems.

Hodler, 80, started the furore when he said last month that agents offered candidates blocs of votes for millions of dollars. Following his comments and reports of inducements allegedly offered to some of the IOC members involved in the selection, the president of the Salt Lake City Organising Committeeand his deputy resigned.

The president in question. Tom Welch, has admitted he had a £330.000 fund to finance offerings to Olympic officials worldwide. Welch was forced to stand down in August 1997, after being charged with financial abuse. He admitted giving £33,000 to Jean-Claude Ganga, an IOC member from the Republic of Congo, who said he needed money to help his homeland's children fight civil strife. But Welch claimed: "We never bribed anybody. We never bought a vote."

The IOC has launched its own internal investigation on the corruption charges, and

BY ROBERT EVANS

Verdier said the results of these would be released after an executive board meeting on 24 or 25 January. The IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, speaking in Warsaw, promised to punish any IOC members implicated in the scandal. "We are going to act very fast," he is reported to have told members of Poland's Olympic Committee. "If it turns out the behaviour of some IOC members was reprehensible they She added that a suggestion will have to bear the conse-

up to 12 members of the IOC may be forced to resign once the investigations are complete. But a leading member of the Sydney 2000 Games organising committee has called on Samaranch to ignore calls for his own resignation, Samaranch has come under fire from the former New South Wales Olympics minister Bruce Baird.

But Australian IOC member Phil Coles, who yesterday resigned from his consultancy role with the hotel group due to house Olympic officials in Sydney, said: "He won't resign, and we don't want him to. I've been saying all along... if there's a half-dozen corrupt politicians the prime minister doesn't resign.'

Baird warned Samaranch "the buck always stops with someone" but says Sydney bid officials never went as far as to provide and pay for prostitutes for IOC members, as Salt Lake City bid organisers allegedly did.

Meanwhile, Rene Paquet, the former head of the Quebec City bid committee which lost out to Salt Lake City, says the Canadian city may sue the IOC because the rules on the bid contract were broken.



Andrew Freshwater wins the downhill event of the British Land National Alpine Ski Championships in Tignes. France, yesterday

#### Maier denies Raich's slalom hat-trick

HERMANN MAIER kept his word and held his nerve in Adelboden, Switzerland, yesterday to win a World Cup giant slalom ahead of his team-mate Benjamin Raich

Austria's Olympic champion had promised retribution after finishing third in a giant slalom on his home hill in Flachau on Sunday behind the victorious newcomer, Raich, Maier kent his pledge by collecting his

sixth victory of the season. It was his second giant slalom victory of the season and his second in two years on Adelboden's treacherous Kuonisbergli piste, with a two-run combined time of 2min 12.66sec.

By Steve Keating

Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt, Maier's main rival in the overall World Cup standings, kept the pressure on the double Olympic champion by crossing second in 2:12.94. It was his first podium finish in giant slalom this season. He finished third in a slalom in

Schladming last week. Raich - leader after the first leg and chasing his third win in six days - had to settle for it because Aamodt is so close third, with 2:13.14.

Bothered by a sore back that forced him to take Gruenigen retained the lead

painkillers before the race, Maier admitted he had been considering skipping the next races in Wengen and Kitzbuehel to rest before next month's World Championships in Vail. Colorado. However, with Azmodt so close behind, the former bricklayer said he would

"I'm not sure about my programme – I'll make a decision this evening," said Maier, who leads the overall rankings with 911 points, 228 clear of Aamodt. "I have to think seriously about

talk to the team doctors.

Switzerland's Michael Von

from Maier in the giant slalom standings by two points. Second after the first leg.

Maier was at his best on his sec-

ond run down the piste, showing no signs of pain or discomfort to record 1:06.86. Raich also charged down the course but a costly error near the start of his run denied the 20 year old another victory. "I had no problem with the

pressure," shrugged Raich, a five-time junior world champion. "I've raced from the front before and know that kind of pressure. I'm just pleased to be on the podium after making a mistake at the top of the

Until yesterday's victory, the slightly built Raich had overshadowed the powerful Maier through the first few weeks of

Raich, who claimed his maiden World Cup win in a night slalom in Schladming last Thursday before a giant slalom victory in Flachau, had suddenly found himself at the centre of media atten-

"I'm happy for Benjamin," said Maier. "His success takes pressure away from me. I've had less work to do away from the hill because Benjamin is so

Results, Digest, page 25 | two potential buyers,

#### Knights aim to ride out Storm

#### ICE HOCKEY

THE LONDON Knights coach, Jim Flyarchuk, believes Manchester Storm can be beaten despite a seemingly relentless march towards the Sekonda Superleague title.

Storm are six points clear and have a game in hand on the second-placed Cardiff Devils. whose challenge has faltered in recent weeks with five defeats in their last six games.

Manchester's lead has been built on the back of five successive victories and a recordbreaking 18-match winning run at the MEN Arena. But Fuyarchuk, whose Knights team prop up the league and have the second worst home record behind Bracknell Bees, refuses to concede the title race is over and that tonight's game at the Docklands Arena is a foregone

conclusion. He said: "I think they can be stopped from winning the league title. Why not? There are so many things that could go wrong. The roof could cave in on them just like it did to us. You get half a dozen injuries and all of a sudden it changes the

whole complexion of the line-up. "You then get a bit of bad luck, a couple of bad bounces, you drop a couple of games and then the momentum is taken away. But they've got great strength in depth, great balance, they're playing with confidence, while we're riddled with inconsistency.

"If we can put together a couple of wins it adds to our own confidence and we generate our own momentum again.

"People will be looking at the game and thinking Manchester will win, but nothing would be sweeter than coming up with an upset win over them. It's about time somebody did."

The other game tonight is Ayr Scottish Eagles at home to Sheffield Steelers, who are still involved in takeover talks with

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#### FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated (Spansored by AXA)
THERD ROUND REPLAYS ham v Southampton (7.45)....ds v Rushden & Diamonds (7.45).... ansea v West Ham (7.45)....

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP SECOND ROUND en's Park v Clachnacuddin ...... SECOND-ROUND REPLAYS SCOTTISH LEAGUE PIRST DIVISION

Partick v Alloa (7.45) ... FA CARLSBERG VASE Fourth round: Bowers v Woodbridge (at Billericay Town

RYMAN LEAGUE First Division: Croy-don v Canvey Island, Wandanel Trophy third round: Harlow v Edgware. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern Di-vision: Brackley Town v Baldock, League Cup second resund: Boston Und v Stam-fort; Rocing Club Warwick v Sutton Coldfield, Tairel round: Newport (Gwent)

UNIBOND LEAGUE CUP Second-round replay: Bishop Auddand v Fars-ley Cetric

MORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Division: Leek CSO8 v Cheadle, League Cup second round: Atherton Collieries v St Helens. UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division; Halisham v Eastbourne

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Ipswich Wanderers v Felbistone Port & Town. ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Bedlington Terriers v South Shields.

## THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP THE

THE TIMES .FA WOUTH CUP Third rotated: Gillingham v Leicester City.
PONTINS LEAGUE Presenter Divisions: Aston Villa v Derby (7.0): Preston v Liverpool (7.15). First Divisions: Bolton v Coventry (7.0). Second Division: Shrewsbury v Sheffleid Utd (7.0): Scarborough v Weedam (2.0). Third Division: Hallfax v Darlington (2.0): Hartlepool v Chester (7.0); Wigan v Rochdale (2.0). League Cop Group Two: York v Hull (7.0). Group Flour: 12 Huddersfield v Chester fed (7.0). Group Flour: Stockport v Bury (7.0) (at Hyde Utd FC). Group Ste: Notts County v Bradford (2.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

AYON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Barnet v Fulham (2.0); Oxford v Chariton: Portsmouth v Norwich; Swindon v Brentford (7.15): Watford v

RUGBY UNION welsh Challenge Trophy Pool A Caerphilly v Edinburgh Reivers (7.15) Pool B: Bridgend v Glasgow Caledonian

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle E gles v Milton Keynes Lions (7.0). UNI-BALL TROPHY Group A: Thame Valley Tigers v Leicester Riders (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY SENONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scot-tish Eagles v Shelleld Steelers (7.30); Lon-don Knights v Manchester Storm (7.0).

OTHER SPORTS **BOWLS:** World Indoor Singles Chan pionships (Hopton-on-Sea, Norlolk). SNOTHER: Qualifying for Regal Scottish Open, British Open and World Championships (Norbreck Costle Hotel, Black-pool).

## Court to set Sailor sum

Wendell Sailor is facing a High Court damages award after reneging on a deal to play for The former Brisbane Bron-

co, now playing rugby union for Leeds Tykes, signed a twoyear deal with Wigan 12 months ago but then changed his mind after his return to

Wigan took the case to court and Sailor failed to contest the action, claiming he knew nothing of the move.

RUGBY LEAGUE The High Court will now be

asked to decide on the amount of damages. Wigan are seeking in excess of £30,000.

Norbury, said: "There will have to be a hearing to determine the amount. I expect that to take place in Manchester in the next few weeks." Sailor, who was hoping to set-

The Wigan chairman, Peter Leicester on 30 January.

tie out of court, could be back home in Brisbane by the time Ford will sponsor the First

final home game for Leeds in Sunday's Allied Dunbar Premiership Two fixture with Fylde and is expected to complete his three-month stint in the Tetley's Bitter Cup fifth round tie at

Wigan had threatened to take out an injunction to prevent Sailor turning out against them for Leeds Rhinos in the Grand Final last October but. in the event, he was not selected.

of the hearing. He will play his Division for the 1999 season.

## Syme goes through with ease

SANDY SYME, last year's Scottish champion, eased through to the second round of the World Indoor Championship in Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk, yesterday, with a straight sets victory over Guernsey's Paul

Syme survived a slow start to beat Ingrouille, a late replacement for his fellow Channel Islander Adrian Welch. Ingrouille started well and

moved into a 5-1 lead in the opening set, but Syme came back to snatch a 7-6 win. The Scot then took command, winning the next two sets 7-1 in a total of nine ends.

Jason Greenslade, the world No 23, narrowly beat Neil Collett. his Cardiff club-mate, in the first round on Monday night. Greenslade lost the first set 7-4

and trailed 0-5 in the second before recovering to win it 7-6.

"That really got to me - I thought I should have been two sets to nothing up and I had nothing to show for dominating the match up to that point. Collett said.

Greenslade then restricted Collett to just one count in the third set as he won it 7-2 before repeating the scoreline in the next to seal his success.

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### an Atkinson makes The old dressing in the second Control of the state of the sta Confidence of the the state of the s Palmer a With the summer Driotis of the profession of t

tingham Forest manager, has moved swiftly to bring in fresh recruits as he attempts to keep the City Ground club in the Pre-

Atkinson has tabled a bid for the Southampton midfielder, Carlton Palmer. The Saints' manager, Dave Jones, confirmed that the former England man who has been unable to settle on the south coast, is set

for a move to Nottingham. Atkinson and Palmer have previously worked together at West Bromwich and Sheffield Wednesday. "He leads by example, closes people down and covers every blade of grass," Jones said of Palmer, whom he signed from Leeds for £1m in September 1997.

Palmer at one stage looked set to join Barnsley, only for the not in the Premiership, we are deal to fall through when the Yorkshire club's full-back, Darren Barnard, refused a deal which would have taken him to The Dell.

The Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, has received a boost with the news that the club's backers are ready to support his quest to sign Junnho, Atletico Madrid's unset-

ided Brazilian forward. Villa's financial director, Mark Ansell, said: "The board have already confirmed to John Gregory that, should the players become available that he wants, then he can bank on our support. It is down to the fantastic success of the last 12 months that makes it even more possible to support fur-

ther purchasing of players." Gregory, who has spent £21m in the last six months, er talks with their neighbours, knows that he may have to spend over £10m to bring Juninho, once of Middlesbrough, back to England.

Chelsea's influential midfielder Gustavo Poyet has been ruled out of action for three months. The Uruguayan is recovering from knee surgery ter damaging medial ligaward Hassan Kachloul in ChelBY RUPERT METCALF

sea's 2-0 victory at The Dell on

Boxing Day. Ian Wright was last night undergoing an operation on his knee. The West Ham striker, who damaged his cartilage during the FA Cup third-round tie

at home to Swansea, is likely to be out for four to six weeks. The Bolton Wanderers manager, Colin Todd, has accused Arnar Gunnlaugsson of "pure greed" after the Icelandic striker rejected the club's new contract offer. "He's advised by his agent that he can get a certain number of pounds and that seems to be what he's holding out for - but we've made our final offer," Todd said. "We are

a First Division club. Sheffield Wednesday's Northern Ireland international midfielder Jim Magilton has ioined Ipswich Town on a month's loan, and will make his debut in the First Division

game at Sunderland on Sunday. Sheffield United's former Everton midfielder, John Ebbrell, has been forced to retire due to an ankle injury.

Ian Stott intends to concentrate on his campaign to become chairman of the Football Association, following his resignation as Oldham Athletic's

Stott stood down on Monday following a board meeting at Boundary Park, when he admitted causing the club embarrassment over his claims that the Latics were in merg-Bury and Rochdale. All three claims that secret negotiations

were taking place. Stott remains on the Oldham board as vice-chairman and has swapped roles with David Brierley, who steps up to become chairman. Stott, who is a member of the FA's manageients following a challenge by ment committee, announced Southampton's Moroccan for- his quest to succeed Keith camp in Colorado and retire Wiseman at the FA last week.



Peter Shreeves (right), Nottingham Forest's new assistant manager, has the players smiling in his first training session yesterday

## Goram signs for Motherwell

Glasgow Rangers goalkeeper, private life. Andy Goram, last night ended eight months of uncertainty by signing for Motherwell - and then revealed that it was fear of ending up injured that led to his dramatic walk-out before the World Cup.

Goram will return to Scottish football after a turbulent period following his last appearance in the country in the Scottish Cup final in May last year.

Goram has since had a brief clubs were quick to deny Stott's spell at Notts County and a twomonth loan period at Sheffield it. Whether that had an effect to join his former Ibrox teammate, Brian Laudrup, at FC Copenhagen fall through.

His legacy to the Scottish game, however, appeared to be his decision to abandon Scotland's pre-World Cup training

THE FORMER Scotland and amid allegations about his if I had gone off to France and

After signing on at Motherwell until the end of the season, however, the 34-year-old indicated the uncertainty over his future beyond the World Cup finals and Craig Brown's apparent preference for Jim Leighton were crucial factors in his decision.

"I retired from international football and it wasn't accepted. your games. That is just part of But Jim Leighton did the same and it was okay," he said. "It was the way people construed United but recently saw a move on what has happened since or not I don't know, but I made my decision at the time and I don't regret it.

"People said that I was still the No 1, but I was probably not from." the most important person's

"I had been told indirectly

got injured I could have had no club for nine months."

His return to Scottish football now suggests a desire to reestablish his former reputation. but Goram was quick to dispel any idea idea of an international comeback.

"Once you retire, you retire," he declared.

"You can't pick and choose history now, and I've probably got more chance of playing in the cricket World Cup.

"Besides, Scotland are sorted out for goalkeepers with Jonathan [Gould] and Neil [Sullivan] and the young lad at Dundee, Robert Douglas, They have got plenty to choose

Goram insisted he never despaired of finding another club, despite the apparent re-

luctance of managers to con-

often controversial character. But even he admitted he was surprised by the speed of

the deal that finally signalled his return to football after months of waiting by the phone. "I think the fact that people

thought I was going to Copenhagen scared a few clubs off." he said. "But I was always hopeful that somebody would come in for me. Right up until three days before I was due to leave I thought I was going. But changed his mind, and it was

back to square one. "But I was training with Ayr for a couple of days and then I came up here vesterday morning and within an hour everything was signed and sealed."

Motherwell's manager, Billy Davies, said: "I had no hesitation in bringing him here. He is

template taking a chance on an a first-class goalkeeper among the best in Europe - and he will be a tremendous addition to the squad.

> "He is a top man as far as goalkeepers are concerned. and I don't think you lose that. His experience and knowledge iobs so they take the money." can only give the other lads here confidence, and it is up to us now to get him training and back in the swing of things."

rest of the squad for their winter break in Tenerife tomorrow then the new coach came in and and is expected to go straight into the side for their Scottish Cup tie against Hearts on 24 January.

hoped to seal a deal with Everton over the next two weeks to keep striker John Spencer at the club on a permanent basis. He has had no indication that Walter Smith wants him back at

European title and played in

two World Cup semi-finals in

1982 and 1986, both lost to Ger-

#### Brazil fears player exodus

BY ANDREW WARSHAW in Cannes

A SENIOR Brazilian football official warned yesterday that the game in his country could be plunged into crisis over plans for a Bosman-style law giving players freedom of movement when their contracts end.

Jaime Franco, executive director of Brazil's major club union, the União des Grandes Clubes Brazilieros, said football in the four times World Cupwinning nation risked being seriously undermined if the scheme were allowed to go ahead in two years' time.

Franco said that at the end of 2001, a new Brazilian law would, if passed, allow all players over the age of 20 to move abroad at the end of their contracts without any financial reward to the clubs that had nurtured them.

"We are fighting this because there will be an exodus of players," Franco said, "Brazil has the best players in the world but they will all go to Europe to get more money. That would be disastrous. If we don't have good players, we risk losing our sponsors and our television contracts. It would be a crisis for Brazilian football."

Franco, speaking at the Football Expo conference here, also bemoaned the increasing number of teenagers who, he said, were already leaving Brazil before even signing their first professional contracts, lured by agents of rich European clubs.

"We have around 400 youngsters aged 15 and 16 who are already in Europe, mostly in Germany, Belgium and Switzerland," Franco said. "Agents come over to look at these boys, whose development grows as quickly as grass, and offer them crazy opportunities. Their parents have no

A three-week strike by Greek clubs demanding more state subsidies has been called off for the next two weeks. First, Sec-Goram will fly out with the ond and Third Division matches will be played this weekend and the next, officials said. "During this period we will resume talks with the sports under-secretary and we believe we will reach an agreement. If Davies also confirmed he not, our action could be be repeated," a spokesman representing the clubs' union said.

The clubs began their strike

on 20 December to push for a

greater share of earnings from state-organised football pools and the immediate payment of around \$1bn (£617m), a sum owed to them by the sports ministry from last season. The sports under-secretary Andreas Fouras said last week he would consider the demands, softening his original position at the start of the strike when he described them as ridiculous. Most clubs face serious economic problems this season with half-empty stadiums during matches after allegations of corruption and a number of incidents involving hooligans.

Mexican referees, accused of insulting players, may be asked to wear microphones. The Argentinian midfielder Antonio Mohamed, captain of First Division Monterrey, put forward the plan after claiming players were often verbally abused by referees. The idea. proposed during a meeting of team captains and referees. was approved by the officials

#### from international football that was no longer the case and Leeds' injury problems mount

DAVID BATTY, the Leeds Unit- BY IAN PARKES ed midfielder, will be out of action for at least another month because of his rib injury, it was revealed yesterday.

Batty, who was the first sign-David O'Leary, broke a rib on his debut in his return to the club - the 2-0 home win over Coventry on 14 December. The news comes before tonight's FA Cup third-round replay with Rushden & Diamonds, and Batty is the latest in a long line of Leeds players to be ruled out through injury.

O'Leary has also lost central defenders Robert Molenaar who undergoes surgery today and Martin Hiden to seasonlong knee ligament damage. O'Leary is also almost cerior sw

tain not to risk Lucas Radebe for the game at Elland Road. ing of the new Leeds manager, his own knee injury, also sus-

> Jonathon Woodgate, anothtral defender. On the subject of Batty's in-

jury, O'Leary said: "David has been training with us but his broken rib is still painful, so he will be out for at least another month. I don't know when our injury jinx is going to let up and

Jane Couch will defend her World Boxing Federation welterweight title against Marischa Sjauw of the

Netherlands at Thomaby Pavilion on

CRICKET

SECOND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL [Naples, NZ; day/right match): New Zeatand 213 (49.3 overs); india 214 for 8 in (49.5 overs), leads wore by two selections (series level 1-1).

TOUR MATCH (Paart, SA; Road day of three); West Indies 220 (S C Williams 55) and 307 (P A Wallace 57, B C Lara 53, C L Hooper 70. C M Williaghty 5-60; Boland 135 (R Lewis 4-45) and 123 for 5. Match

FOOTBALL

England beat Turkey 2-0 yesterday in their under-16 international in izmir. Both England goals were

scored by the Barnsley youngster

The Dutchman Stefan Postma, the

Utrecht goalkeeper for whom Liv-erpool are considering a £700,000

move, has a run out for the Anfield lub's reserves at Preston tonight.

Wolves are giving trials to the fourth-choice Liverpool goalkeeper, Jorgen Nielsen, and the Greek central defender Dimitris Argyropoulos.

Nielsen, a Dane, cost Liverpool £400,000 from Hvidovre two years

ago but he has yet to make a first-

PRENCH LEAGUE CLIP Second-round draws: Le Havre v Lens; Sochaux v Nancy; Chânsaurous v Montpeller; Monaco v Paris St-Germans; Amiens v Autorer; Metz v Lughans-Culseaux: Nice v Totlouse; Retnes

20 February.

Rory Fallon.

Rushden produced a tremendous display at Nene Park 10 days ago when they held Leeds to a goalless draw. But it was a performance which was nothing less than O'Leary expected and given his team's injury list, tonight's game will

"I always knew it would be tough, particularly knowing

The European Ryder Cup Commit-tee is expected to confirm later this week that the 2005 Cup will be hosted by the K Club in Straffan,

hosted by the K Club in Straiffan, County Kildare. US RYDER CUP TEAM STANDINGS LEAD-ERS: 1 D Owel 767-500pts: 2 M O'Meara 737-500; 3 J Furyk 515-500; 4 1 Woods 506,875; 5 S Stricker 412-500; 6 D Love 407-500; 7 F Couples 367-500; 8 D Maytar 341-500; 9 P Micketson 331,250; 10 F Funk 305,000; 11 L Lanzen 295-500; 12 J Leonard 294,375; 18 P Stevaer 292-500; 14 H Sutton 266-250; 15 M Calcavechile 253-500. (Ne top 10 following the PAC Championship in August automatically quality for the 12-man US town to play the 33nd Ryder Cup against Europe from 24 to 36 September of The Country Club, Brookline, Massachusests).

ICE HOCKEY

RALLYING

RALLYING

DAMAR RALLY (1,032km Including 430km thmed section, Morth to Tumbulen, Mail)
10th stage: Cars: 1 J P Fortierby (Fr) Missibish at 77mm 11sec; 2 M Fetro (Sp) Missibish + 4mm 15sec; 3 J L Schlesser (Fr)
Schlesser + 5:15: 4 K Shinezuka (Japan) Missibish + 21:15; 6 K Massucka (Japan) Missibish + 21:01; 6 C Souza (For) Missibish + 24:15; 7 S Servia (Sp) Schlesser + 25:07: 8 S Peterhanset (Fr) Nissan + 26:56; 9 G De Mexics (Bell Nissan + 26:56; 10 the stage (SABIRI Including Sagiker Elmid saction, Timbulga, Mail, to Neana, Musritania): Cars: 1 K Si-Joszuka (Japan) Missibish (Fr Finn 3 Jac; 2

Montreal 3 St Louis 1; Woshington 4 NY ers 3; Ottawa 4 New Jersey 2, Philadel-I Nashwille 0; Phoenix 1 Buffalo 0; San

sively again.

"The disappointing thing is that we've been so hurt by in- poor results this season. juries in one department. I've not ruled Jonathon Woodgate out yet but he is struggling and will have a test tomorrow With the number of injuries we've had, I'm proud of the way the players

and Alfie Haaland are likely to figure alongside Wetherall

Gary Butterworth will both play after picking up knee and ankle injuries in Saturday's win at Barrow, although going into the game, and we are weeks with a knee problem.

Medius (Bel) Nissam +26:14: 10 G Marcy (Bel) Nissam +35:46. Ownerall: 1 Schlesser 48hr 18min 11sec; 2 Prieto +8min 57sec; 3 Klein-schnidt: +45:24: 4 Schloozuka +2hr 03min 13sec; 5 H Massuba (Japan) Missabishi +3:24:28. 6 Serna +3:24:43: 7 Pecertiansel 3:53:29: 8 De Laweryne +5:21:41: 9 Fontenay +6:33.56: 10 C Sourae (Por) Missabishi +1:18:43. Riebarosychesu: 1 A Cox (SA) KTM 6hr 4min 56sec; 2 K Tianen (Fri) KTM +3min 16sec; 3 T Magnatid (Fri KTM +5:30: 4 F Menni (N) KTM +5:30: 5 R Saincx (Fri Bahw +10:12: 6 D Gallardo (Sp) BMW +12:77: 7 C Soelo (Sp) Yamaha +16:26: 8 G Sala (Iti KTM +22:09, 9 J Arcanors (Sp) KTM +26:09: 10 E Bernard (Fr) KTM +25:58. Ownelli: 1 Sainc 38hr 28min 06sec; 2 Magnatid +2min 01sec; 3 Megnatid +16:13: 4 Cox +19:00; 5 Arcanors +10:10 Jimin 41sec; 6 Tanen +1:03:18; 7 Soreto +1:09:14. 8 J Deacon (GB) KTM +1:59:37:9 C De Gavardo (Chile) KTM +2:55.08: 10 Sha +3:49:16.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Salford Reds have signed the Leeds Rhinos' Gary Hewitt. The 20-year-

old threequarter is out of contract.

RUGBY UNION

RUGBY UNION

RELAND SOUAD (Galeray trahing):
Bachs: C O'Shea (London Irish), G Dempowy
(Fereuar College), J Bishop (London Irish),
J Backlescopy (St. Mary Scollege), J Bask (Dungarnon), K Maggar (Bath), R Manderson
(Wasps), E Elewood (Galweglans), D
Homphreys (Dungarnon), C McGalanson (St.
Marys), C Scally (UCD), G Easterby (Condon Scotth), Ferwards: P Clobesty (Young
Munster), J Fitzpatrick (Dungarnon), R Corrigan (Laridowick), P Walliaso (Saracens), K
Hiddol (Hariequins), R Mendale (Newcastel),
J Danidson (Castres), D O'Calmenagain
(Sole), E Millier (Ferenare College), V Costallo (St. Mary's College), T Deamson (St. Mary's),
A Ward (Ballynahnch).

SAILING

CHAMPIONSHIPS (Mailsourpe : President of the IOC Cap (bes Great Britain 33pts: 2 Australia 25 27. Laser: Gold Float (after 1/

Tigana, has resigned because of the 1997 French champions'

"He came to see me vester-

Tigana's duties have been taken on by the technical manager, Claude Puel, former goalkeeper Jean-Luc Ettori and the deputy coach, Jean Petit. Petit said: "We have had to

because nobody expected this. We needed to react swiftly." Tigana, a former French international, joined Monaco

races, 2 discardaj: 1 8 Ansie (GB) 20pts 2 R Scheldt (Brij 34; 3 K Sunesson (Swe) 37. Other GB: 5 A Sangson 55; 27 M Barron 147; 31 M Littlejotn 165, 43 E Wright 239; 47 J Sylor 261; 54 P Goodson 281. Europe (ah-land 4 races): 1 S Robertson (GB) 10pts 2 M.

SPORTING DIGEST

had a frustrating season. Monaco are seventh in the

French first division, 19 points behind the leaders, Marseilles. and out of contention for a place in the Champions' League next season. They were beaten in the Uefa Cup by Marseilles in December. "This is the players' fault. We

are responsible for what happened here [to Tigana]," the goalkeeper, Fabien Barthez, said. "But we must respect Tigana's decision." Barthez is one of several

players, including Thierry

many. He played for Toulouse. Lyon, Bordeaux and Marseilles before starting his coaching career in Lyon. Dynamo Kiev have said they had cancelled the transfer of their Ukrainian international

full-back, Oleh Luzhny, to Benfica because the Portuguese side had failed to to meet financial conditions. Luzhny had been on trial with Benfica during the Ukrainian close season but Dynamo accused them of a "lack of courtesy", causing "psychological damage" to the yer. A Dynamo official had said Sheffield Wednesday might. be interested in the defender.

#### AMERICAN FOOTBALL Ray Rhodes, who was dismissed by

the Philadelphia Eagles immediately following a dismal season in which only three games were won, has been hired as head coach of the Green Bay Packers.

#### ATHLETICS

Two of Africa's greatest athletes will swap distances in an attempt to break each other's records at the Bupa Indoor Grand Prix in Birm-Komen, the world and commonwealth 5,000 metres champion from Kenya, will make an assault on Halle Gebrselassie's 2,000m world indoor record. Ethiopia's Gebrseiassie will attempt to break Komen's .... 5.000m record.

lwan Thomas, the European and Commonwealth 400m champion, has been named Weish Sports Per-

with east, WORLD BIDDOR SINGLES CHAMPI-ONSHIP (Hopton-or-Sea, Norfolk) First returd: B Jackson (Engl bt J Mills (Eng) 5-7 3-77-47-27-3: J Greenslade (Nal) bt N Co-3-7 7-4 7-2 7-3: J Greenstade (Wal) bt Ñ Collett (Wal) 4-7 7-6 7-2 7-2: 5 5yme (Scol) bt P ingrouille (Guernsey) 7-6 7-1 7-1.

#### BOXING

Cornelius Carr, from Middlesbrough, will fight the Jamakan Simon Brown at Thornaby Pavilion on 20 February, for the World Boxing Federation's super-middleweight npionship.

because he has only played 70 minutes in the reserves since tained against Coventry.

er central defender, is also very doubtful with a thigh strain which forced him out of Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Blackburn. O'Leary is left with only David Wetherall as a recognised cen-

leave us alone. But we've an exciting cup tie and we've got to show that we can cope with this crisis that has hit us."

not be a foregone conclusion. "Rushden certainly didn't take me by surprise in the first game. I had seen them on the Monday before the tie and I knew they were a very professional outfit," O'Leary said.

have kept going." If Woodgate fails his test and O'Leary refuses to gamble on Radebe, then Gunnar Halle

Rushden's Jim Rodwell and how brittle we were at the back Michael Mison is out for four

#### Tigana shocks Monaco going to be struggling defen- THE MONACO coach, Jean as coach in July 1995 but has helped France to win the 1984

day and said he wanted to quit. He didn't wish to go on," the club's chairman, Jean-Louis Campora, said yesterday. "Now we have to focus on the next match, at Lens on Saturday, which is far more important."

take emergency measures

Henry and David Trézéguet, who have made it clear recently that they were unhappy and wanted to leave the club. Tigana, capped 53 times,

Athansson (Swe) 6-3 7-6: N (Gefer (Ger) bt M Damm (Cz Rep) 5-7 6-3 6-2; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 1-6 6-0 7-6. Moment's Singles, first round; 5 Gral (Ger) bt A Sugyama (Japan) 6-0 6-4; A Kourmboro (Rus) bt 5 Farins (II) 4-6-3 7-5; N Milliams (US) bt 1 Gornothitegal (Ang) 6-2 6-1; 5 Williams (US) bt 1 Gornothitegal (Ang) 6-4 6-2. Second round: 5 Schett (Aus) bt C Martinez (Sp) 6-3 7-5; M Hogs (Swat) bt A Mola (Aus) 6-1 6-2. 1:07-37); 5 A Schifferer (Aug. 2:13.87 (1:06-37, 1:07-50); 6 M Von Grüngen (Sent) 2:13.96 (1:06.68, 1:07-28). Wher id Cap Glant shilters standings: 1 Von Grüngen 32:05: 2 Mayer 32:: 3 Aarnoot 274: 4 C Mayer (Aug. 261; 5 Eberharter (Aug.) 260. World Cap oweralt: 1 Mastr 911pts: 2 Aarnoot 683; 3 Eberharter 593; 4 L Klus (Nov.) 592: 5 Mayer 553.

SNOOKER

SCOTTISH OPEN (Blackgool) Final qualifying round (ling nucleus stateod): I Lordner (Soo) by T Lones 5-4; M Campbell (Soo) by D Name (Ma) 5-4; K Broughton by Phonbun (Thai) 5-3; L Richardson by M Jadge (R irl) 5-4; N Pearce by A Gunnell 5-2; D Henry (Soo) by G Ponting 5-1; R Limite by W Brown 5-2, D Clarke by D Gray 5-1; D McLettan (Soo) by D Reynolds 5-0; W Thome by C Gilchrest; (Reo Ire) 5-1; I McCulloch by S Storey 5-0; N Walter by G Greene 5-1; P Davies (Wal) by S Judd 5-4; E Henderson (Soo) by A Davies (Wal) by S Judd 5-4; E Henderson (Soo) by A Davies (Wal) 5-1; K Payne by M Davies (Collisto by N Goulds 5-4; S Pettman by T Chappel (Wal) 5-4; M Mapstone by J Proguston 5-3; I. Richardson by M Judge (R Irl) 5-1; P Javies (Ma) 5-1; C Judd 5-4; E Henderson (Soo) by D Reynolds 5-0; W Thome by C Gilchrest R (R Irl) 5-1; A McCulloch by Soney 5-1; D Note (Wal) by S Judd 5-4; E Henderson (Soo) by A Davies (Wal) by S Judd 5-4; E Henderson (Soo) by A Davies (Wal) 5-1; B Mapstone by J Pegiston 5-3. Bertifish OPEN (Blackgoon) Fourth qual-friging round (Eng andres setted); M Gelders (Bel) by J Wintry 5-0; P Phonburn (Davies (Bel) by J Wintry 5-0; P Phonburn (Davies (Ma)) 5-1; M Davies (Ma) 5-1; P Debernine (Bel) by R Sound (Ba) 5-1; P Debernine (Bel) by R Sound (Ba) 5-1; P Debernine (Bel) by R Sound (Aus) 5-2; S Chong (Malay) by S Budd (Aus) 5-2; M Fy (Ma) K A Gunnell 5-1

SNOOKER

31 M Littlejohn 166, 43 E Wright 235; 47 J Taylor 261; 58 P Goodson 281. Europe (albert 4 recest): 1 5 Robertson (Gb) 10ptc: 2 M Marchige (Nebu) 142, 35 Mulata [Fin) 15 Other 681: 39 J Singleton 44; 36 D Winstanley 76; 73 N Muller 93. Fine Gold Cop (albert 591: 14 D Mellor 76: 21 R Steinhouste 96: 32 J Lea 141: 35 C Churchige 147, Aber (albert 591: 14 D Mellor 76: 21 R Steinhouste 96: 32 J Lea 141: 35 C Churchige 147, Aber (albert 691: 13 pts. 2 F and G Brunt (it) 14, 31 arts C McKree (LS) 14, GB: 6 T Robinson and E Smyth (Aus) 13 pts. 2 F and G Brunt (it) 14, 31 arts C McKree (LS) 14, GB: 6 T Robinson and (Bisher 21; 12 I Barlier and D Prailips 25; 13 A and I Budgen 25; 17 P Brotherton and M McDonaly 36, 27 A Sead and 2 Ellot 43; 32 A Rochardson and P Greenhaldt 50; 57 G Farrant and D Johnson 76: 62 N Fizzberald and P Horgreases 91. Solling (albert 4 recest): 1 S Welstergoand, I Bolsen Moller and B Westergoand (Der) 17 pts. 2 J Schuernan. G Bahr and I Borkonsol (Cer) 18; 3 I Walker, N Drennan and S Jackson (Aus) 37. GB: 6 A Beadsworth, R Systemburn and B Rachun 11; 11 L Smith, O Stewart and R Charlottanks 88. Blents 4 Traces; 1 T S Welstergoand, I Bolson Moller (Pol) 26, 68; 23 N Rogens and J Glandeld 61. Sliver Beet (after 3 reces); 1 C Imazz and K Nelson 17 pts. 2 J Schuernan (Japan) 12; 3 E Hamazzkie and Y Migol Ulapan) 19. GB: 5 D Edwards and A Robbant (Lapan) 19. GB: 5 D Edwards and A May 32-6 C Oraper and D Nervick (LS) Sees 2 K Nelsonman and K Nelson 13 Reages); 1 S Kedmy and A Rabbant (Lapan) 19. GB: 5 D Edwards and A May 32-6 Solf Reces (LS) Sees 2 K Nelsonman and K Nelson 13 S and M Ward (Den) 14 GB: 18 K Neuton and B Waston 59; 23 L Walker and S Parkin 66; 24 B Raggent and 5 Web 69; Stein Rose (Lafter 3 reces); 1 C Samore and S Deschols (Aus) 19. GB: 4 H Lucas and M Beech 21; 9 S Rees Jones and I Leak 29. TENNIS SYDNEY BYTERBATTONEAL (Aust) Bleen's singles, first resends C Ploine (Fr) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-4 7-6: G Ruerter (Bra) bt G Ruesds-ki (GB) 1-6-3-5-4: T Martin (US) bt H Araz (Mar) 6-1 6-3, M Puerra (Arg) bt I Slemerink (Nept) 6-2 6-4: K Ruera (Sloves) bt F Clamer (Sp) 6-4 7-6: L Hervitt (Aus) bt P Fafter (Aus) 7-6 6-1: T Muster (Auf) bt J Bjordman (Swe) 7-5 6-7 6-3; J Stoffenberg (Aus) bt A Berassuegus (Sp) 6-1 6-7 7-6: C Moya (Sp) bt T ALPINE WORLD CUP (Adeboden, Surk)
Mart's glass statom: 1 H Maler (Jul) 2min
12.65ec. (195.80 first run, 196.86 second
run); 2 K A Aamodt (Nor) 2:12.94 (195.96.
1:05.99); 3 B Raich (Auf) 2:13.46 (195.96.
1:07.84); 4 F Nyberg (Suel) 2:13.51 (1:96.14.

TEINEREN MEN'S OPEN (Auckland) Sta-tes, first round: M Safin (Rus) bi G Pozzi

(Sponsored by AXA)
THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS Barnsley ..........P Swindon Town...P (Tie to be played Tues 19 January, 7.45). Notts County .... P Sheffield Utd....P

NORTHERN SECTION SECOND ROUND Kartiescoi ......P Prescon ... lochdale ......P Stoke ... SCOTTISH LEAGUE

\_\_\_\_P Clyde... THIRD DIVISION East Stirling ....P Dumbarton INTERNATIONAL UNDER-16 PRIEND-

LY (Izmir, Tur): Turkey 0 England 2 (Fal-ion 2). RYMAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Postpoped: Walton & Hersham v Bas-ingstoke. Puma Cup Third round: Post-poned: Enfield v Purfleet.

G Raous (Fr) bt B Black (Zmi) 6-3 6-3; M Norman (Swe) b F Sanboro (Fr) 4-6 7-6 3-0 ret: F Mantilla (Sp) bt L Tieternan (III) 7-6 6-2; F Vicente (Sp) bt J Tarago (US) 6-2 4-6 6-4; D Vicente (Sp) bt J Torago (US) 6-2 4-6 6-3 0 Vicente (Arg) the Sanguintal (II) 3-6 6-3 6-3 6-3; A Pavel (Rom) bt M Ros (Chie) 7-5 2-0 Fec: D Hrbaty (Slovak) bt F Squillari (Arg) 6-2 6-2; A Martin (Sp) bt A Ilbe (Aus) 6-3 6-4; A Volnea (Rom) bt J Courler (US) 7-6 6-1 TOURNAMENT (Tabbart) Singles, second (1947) 1-2 0-1.

TOURNAMENT (Tabbart) Singles, second (1948) 1-3 Singles, second (1948) 1-5 Singles, second (1948) 1-5

#### FOOTBALL RESULTS

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Divis (Tie to be played Wed 20 January, 7.45). AUTO WINDSCREEKS SHIELD

Postponed: Emley v Frickley. First Dy-vision: Postponed: Droyisden v Trafford. President's Cap second round: Post-poned: Alprincham v Leigh Rivil. panete Arthroham v Leigh Rvm.
AVON DISURANCE COMBINATION
First Division: Oleen's Park Rangers 1
Bournemouth 1, Postponent: Cambridge
Utd v West Ham: Millwall v Crystal Palace.
THE TIMES FA VOUTH CUP Thirdround: Postponed: Brighton v Coventry THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Third-round! Perspensed: Brighton v Covenity. ROMDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Tenseens Scottish Cap Second round: Perspensed: Queen's Park v Cachnacudein (sie to be played minght). Second-round replay: Postponed: Striling v Montrose. Dr Martens Lague Premier Division: Post-poned: Worcester City v Salkbury, League Cup second round: Perspensed: Ather-stone Url v Burton Ablon. Jewson Was-ser League First Division: Perspense 1 Totton 2. Poneties League Premier dision: Lecester 2 Blackburn 1. Post-med: Sunderland v Leeds, League Cup hup Once Postponed: Newcastle v Mid-sbrough, Group Piers, Postponed Strough, Group Piers, Postponed pomet: Sunderland v Leeds, League Cup Group Once Postponed: Newcastle v Mid-deshrough. Group Thes: Postponed: Claham v Stoke. Auon Insurence Com-bination Prest Dielaher: Luttor 1 Wimbledon 1; Northampton 2 Arsenal 0; Peterborough 0 Toktenham 1; Colchester 2 Brighten 7.

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END OF THE ROAD FOR JORDAN P20 • LLOYD'S WINNING FORMULA P24

#### FA Cup hit by onset of winter

WINTER MADE its presence felt for first time in sport south of the border yesterday, with two out of three FA Cup replays being postponed and racing losing meetings at Newcastle and Leicester.

Scotland lost eight League and Cup games on Saturday, but England had yet to catch a cold. Barnsley's third-round replay against Swindon Town fell victim to a frozen pitch, which will have brought home to the First Division club the value of the undersoil heating they have yet to compete at Oakwell. Pipework was laid in the summer, with the boiler due to be added when the Kop stand is rebuilt later this year

The Cup tie, which has the reward of a fourth-round home tie against Bournemouth for the winners, has been rescheduled for next Tuesday.

Notts County's replay against Sheffield United was called off after the waterlogged Meadow Lane pitch failed a lunchtime inspection. The game will now be played next Wednesday, with the victors meeting either Yeovil or Cardiff.

The only racing yesterday was at Lingüeld's all-weather track and punters have already been denied a flutter at Sedgefield today. Two meetings remain – at Wolverhampton's all-weather course and Kempton, where the prospects are good.



THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No 3818 Wednesday 13 January by Aquila 8 DOGIFITSH VITICITOUS

Cruel policy of people kept separate, hide being different (9)

Pot plant (5) Composer not finishing meal? (5) 10 Does its young damage

orchards all over the place? (5,4) 11 One's feet always cold on these sheets? (10)

12 Maximum temperature in freezer, obviously (4)

14 Cheerful progress by main road (7) 15 This among the pliers that pick up? (7)
17 Shylock's daughter's

case is put off to first of January (7)

19 Appointment in adver-tising (7)

20 Firm street-price (4) 22 Narrow, fashionable and

ready-to-wear? (10) 25 Individuals in Bharat -Asian republic (9) 26 Master with a department (5) Scot's cry, indicative of

27 welcome (5) 28 Perfect specimen of carp, yet he's slipping away (9)

DOWN

Vegetable with a well-in- 19 verted sugar (9) Constable's work that impressed the field (3,3,4)

For example, getting up in primitive setting

Wednesday 13 January 1999 Registered as a newsymper with the Post Office

with enthusiasm (7) First instalment is put up in warehouse (7) However, dolls too can be treated in this hospi-

tal (4) A rambler, say, climbed up (5) The case for the com-

prehensives? (9)
13 How to vex a peer? Taxes, unjustly applied (10) 14 Diverting aircraft, up, with means of lifting (9)

16 Dishonest practice, putting tricky bends on railway (9) Sea Change - work of al- 18 One cannot recall hav-

ing it (7)
What makes Capri so dry? (7) Grass edges cut (5) It's going up on the tenth (5) 23

24 Granny is potassium-negative (4) OPublished by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, I Canada Square, Canary Whorf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albuns Road. Watford and Hollinwood Avenue, Oldham, Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988

## Vilkinson's youth call-up 'cheats fans'

a time when your whole season

"Championships, FA Cups

is being determined.

HOWARD WILKINSON is on a collision course with club managers who fear he will pick By Tommy Staniforth their top young players for two competitions during a crucial

part of the season. Wilkinson, the Football Association's technical director, has even been accused of cheating fans by Peter Ridsdale, the chairman of Leeds United - the club he used to

manage. The World Under-20 Championship is taking place in Nigeria in April, and potentially Wilkinson could have a strong England side at his disposal. with Aston Villa's Gareth Barry Joe Cole of West Ham and even Michael Owen eligible for

selection. As a full international, Owen is not likely to be included for the three-week tournament, which runs from 3 to 24 April. However, Wilkinson is eager to name the strongest possible squad – and Leeds look set to

be particularly hard hit. The defender Jonathon Woodgate, the striker Alan Smith and the goalkeeper Paul Robinson have all been integral parts of the first-team plans of the Leeds manager, David O'Leary, this season - but the Eliand Road club could be deprived of all three. The situation has prompted an angry response from Ridsdale, who believes that, although the

FOOTBALL

tournament is a worthwhile event, young players currently experiencing life in the first team would benefit more by staying in England.

"It is very important that players of 18 and 19 who are not in the first team should get as much experience as possible and they can get that through playing in this tournament," he said. "But I think that players who have emerged into first-

Murdoch has backed a contro-

versial proposal by Sepp Blat-

ter, the president of football's

hold the World Cup every two

gested there could be one

major difference – that it is dis-

puted by clubs, not countries.

"I think the World Cup is a great

international event, and there's

no reason why it shouldn't be

every second year," Murdoch,

whose Sky television company

wants to buy Manchester Unit-

ed, said. "If we don't have a

World Cup between countries

However, Murdoch has sug-

global governing body, Fifa, to of clubs.

team football in the Premier-

doch added.

ture of individual clubs at risk." Any player selected for the

competition would miss five scheduled Premiership matches, plus the possibility of an FA

be right to have - in between

consequences." European foot-

ball's ruling body "not only ob-

jected to the idea but also

condemned the way the project

was presented, without prior

and European places are being determined and if Howard even worse with yesterday's news that the World Under-18 Wilkinson takes these players Championship qualifying tourthen he is cheating the fans, nament-postponed in Israel in who have paid their season November because of the poticket money, and putting the fulitical situation in the Middle East - will now take place in March. From 7 to 14 March, England will compete against

ship shouldn't be taken away at forced to sit out a European would also be a prime candidate

dilemma for Wilkinson became

An already unattractive

Cup semi-final.

the new host nation, Spain, Andorra and Israel - and if they go Cup semi-final and replay. The through they will have to play likes of Wes Brown from Man-chester United could also be March and 28 April. Woodgate

Murdoch backs Blatter plan THE MEDIA tycoon Rupert every two years, maybe it will consultation of any of the relevant bodies."

the quadrennial World Cup that Uefa is "of the opinion that the project would produce negyou have today - a World Cup ative consequences in sporting, "Football is so strong and so medical and commercial contexts and have a damaging efpopular in so many parts of the world that we should see major fect on domestic competitions." international competition more

Uefa countered that "there than every four years," Murare other ways" of strengthening national teams and federa-Uefa yesterday rejected tions", and it "noted with regret Blatter's World Cup plan, saythat the project could be a mating it would have "negative ter of personal prestige".

Fifa will this week try to synchronize major competitions like the European Championship, the Copa America and the African Nations' Cup.

players it would be a joke. "As well as being potentially damaging, those players are regularly involved with the first team and hopefully will be challenging for honours with us in April," the Irishman added.
"What do the FA think bese players will learn in Nigeria? There is no comparison to play-

for that competition as well.

The Leeds manager has left

Wilkinson in no doubt where his

priorities should lie. "I am pre-

pared to fight this all the way,"

O'Leary said. "We are striving

to qualify for Europe again, so

if we were to lose so many of our

ing in the Premiership.\* In contrast to Leeds, Liverpool have had some good news with regard to an international tournament. It was believed that Cameroon would require the defender Rigobert Song on 24 January, when the Anfield side face a fourth-round FA Cup tie at Old Trafford against

Manchester United. However, the 22-year-old Song, who has agreed a £2.8m move from the Italian Serie A club Salernitana and is now waiting for the Department of Employment to issue a work permit, has to serve a twomatch international ban and is unable to play for Cameroon in their African Nations' Cup fixture that weekend.

More football, page 25



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## WEDNESDAYREVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

#### BY RICHARD WILLIAMS

INDEPENDENT

ook at him," said Tommy Brooks, gesturing across the room at the squat figure in black T-shirt, black boots and lime-green bikini briefs standing next to a rack of punchbags, in animated conversation with a group of friends. "See how happy he is? The guy's happy. Before, there was a lot of turmoil. He was always looking over his shoulder. He was unhappy. But he was telling me the other day – he said: 'Man, things have been going so great that I just know something wrong is going to happen."

"Happy" is not a word generally associated with Mike Tyson, the man in the lime-green briefs, For almost 10 years now, ever since the night in Tokyo when Buster Douglas knocked him down and took away his immortality, the name of Tyson has been exclusively linked with trouble. Think of Tyson and you no longer think of a supremely gifted boxer. You think of guilt, rage, shame, retribution, scorn and disgrace. You think of things going wrong.

Tommy Brooks is the latest trainer charged with

the responsibility of overseeing Tyson's attempt to regain his lost crown. On Saturday night in Las Vegas, the former undisputed heavyweight champion of the world meets François Botha of South Africa, christened The White Buffalo by the man who once managed both fighters, the egregious Don King. There are no titles at stake this weekend. Yet Tyson's drawing-power is such that he will earn around £15m for his night's work, the result of his continuing ability to persuade cable television subscribers that when he enters the ring, something memorable happens.

It is, after all, a reasonable claim. This is the same ring in which, during his last fight 18 months ago, Tyson lowered himself to a new level of infamy by taking a bite out of each of Evander Holyfield's ears - for which he earned a disqualification, a fine and a suspension. The same ring in which, the previous year, he had stopped Bruce Seldon in the opening round before rushing from the arena to the emergency room of the nearby University Medical Center to see his friend Tupac Shakur, the rap star, die after a shooting incident en route to a post-fight party.

But Tyson is unlike any other contemporary sportsman or woman in the way that the narrative of his career diverts observers into consideration of matters that have nothing at all to do with sport. Throughout this decade his behaviour has consisntly raised social and moral issues that go far be yond the questions raised elsewhere by mundane displays of cheating, bad manners and the use of performance enhancing drugs.

Not least, his existence reminds us - us white people, that is - of a world to which we cannot belong, a world with its own codes and language, a parallel and self-sustaining world born of 400 years of exclusion and alienation and now fiercely, truculently, proud of its survival.

When Tyson was sentenced to three years in the slammer for raping the teenage beauty queen Desirée Washington, the case aroused debate over issues including the relationship between black men and black women, male-female sexual etiquette in general, the use and abuse of celebrity, and the distorting effect of such celebrity on an individual's behaviour

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And you would still have trouble finding two people to agree on whether or not he did it, or at least whether what he did was, in the circumstances, a crime. Tyson's white admirers have long tried to defend him against the legion of sceptics by emphasising his intellectual curiosity, as exemplified by a profound knowledge and understanding of boxing's history, picked up from his first trainer, Cus D'Amato, and his early managers, Jim Jacobs and Bill Cayton - the team that took a teenage hoodhum from the Brownsville housing projects and turned him into the most formidable prizefighter on earth. The argument goes that a man who talks with such intense and sympathetic eloquence about his heroes can hardly be the brute presented to the public, he must, instead, have been brutalised by his environment.

By itself this is not much of an argument (although its conclusion may be accurate), but it does give Tyson an undeniably appealing side. He showed it again this week, when drawn into a conversation about the era in which title fights lasted 50, 60 or even 100 rounds. The sheer endurance of the men who underwent such tests clearly fired his imagination, and he talked enthusiastically about the fights between Joe Gans, a black lightweight from Baltimore, and Battling Nelson, a white man, before the First World War.

He spoke of being inspired by a photograph of the victorious Nelson standing in triumph over his victim's prostrate body. "Quintessential arrogance". Tyson called it, and there was a thrill in his voice. 'So inspirational Beautiful in a graceful way." He had copied the pose, he said, when he knocked out And the second s the great Larry Holmes in Atlantic City in 1988, while making his second defence of the undisputed title.

Another reporter mentioned the Sonny Liston biopic being made by Hollywood later this year. "Aninteresting cat," Tyson responded. "He wasn't like people thought he was." Liston is, of course, the heavyweight champion with whom the young Tyson has most often been compared, in terms of elemental dark menace. "Sonny Liston is the big black negro deal him under for all the hurts white men, through their arbitrary order, have been able to inflict on the world," the poet and black militant LeRoi Jones wrote in 1963. "He is the underdeveloped, have-not (politically naïve), backward country, the subject people, finally here to collect his pound of flesh."

In the late Eighties, as Tyson bludgeoned his way to the undisputed world title, you could have



negro - one who refused to conform to any of the optimistic stereotypes.

Liston was a Las Vegas resident, and after falling for the second time to the fists of Muhammad Ali he lived an increasingly marginal existence until he was found dead in 1970, aged 38, in mysterious circumstances and with heroin in his veins. Tyson, who has a house on the outskirts of town, has been known to visit his grave, which is marked by a small plaque set into the lawn of a cemetery just off Paradise Road, under the path of jets carrying thousands of holiday-makers every day into McCarron Airport.

Tyson's Las Vegas mansion is one of six homes bought with the estimated £120m that he has earned from boxing since turning pro in 1985, aged 18: Most of that fortune has gone, and now several in every white man's hallway, waiting to do him in, of the houses are on the market, including the one in Vegas, on which he spent around £7m. The taxman is on his back, to the tune of £9m, and he in turn is on the back of Don King, who promoted his fights from 1988 until last year, when Tyson severed their relationship. Tyson is suing King for a sum believed to be in the region of £65m in unpaid earnings, and has begun similar proceedings against "Candy John" Horne and Rory Holloway, the two switched his name for Liston's. He was indeed, to King-approved homeboys who looked after his He is, in any case, a complicated man in psycho-

Holyfield débâcle.

Now Tyson is listed as managing himself, although he has a new adviser, Shelly Finkel, whom he first met when he was a 15-year-old amateur, and who was once Holyfield's manager. Only two members of his old team - Steve "Crocodile" Fitch. his combat-suited personal cheerleader, and Stacey McKinley, his cornerman - are still around. He has prepared for this fight at a gym near one of his other homes, in Phoenix, Arizona, where he lives with his wife Monica, a paediatrician, and their children, and where he is registered with the police as a convicted sex offender. Since the problems associated with earning vast sums of money began to erode the fighter's willingness to maintain proper attention to his craft skills, his training has been supervised by Tommy Brooks, a calm, watchful Californian in his mid forties.

At 32, Tyson has lost little or nothing in pure physical terms. But there comes a time in the lives of most athletes when the mind begins to make its own decisions. Although Tyson is certainly capable of persuading his limbs to produce the kind of elusive movement that was so noticeably lacking in his postprison fights, does his brain want to be bothered?

the massive internal contradiction between affection and malevolence, between humility and arrogance, and lacking - understandably, it must be said - any belief in the availability of social justice, which explains why he responded to Holyfield's parole. If found guilty, he will be lucky to escape a unpunished headbutting by taking the law be-

tween his own teeth. When Tyson was invited to predict the outcome of the fight last week, he proclaimed: "I expect him to die." The shocked reaction was inevitable. Hadn't he learnt anything? There are reliable witnesses, however, who claim that he said this with a smile on his face, in a conscious parody of a much loved moment from a James Bond film. Bond (about to be sawn in half): "Surely you don't expect me to talk." Goldfinger (turning to leave): "No, Mr Bond. I expect you to die!"

Well, he said it again on Monday, in response to the same question, without a smile this time but with a resolute air which did not, I think, mean that he expected to see Botha lying lifeless on the canvas on Saturday night, but that he had noted the response to his first version and had concluded that it was up to us to learn to accept and interpret his choice of language, because he was not about to

be a law unto himself. That view is unlikely to stand him in good stead when he appears before a court next month to answer accusations of having assaulted a fellow road user and thereby violated his further jail term.

He has a new tattoo on the vast expanse of his upper arm, where a likeness of Che Guevara has joined those of Mao Tse-tung and Arthur Ashe. "An incredible individual," he said on Monday in response to an inquiry.

"Someone who had so much but sacrificed it all for the benefit of other people." Che and Mao, worshipped by a man raised in the projects and moulded by lawlessness, who now finds himself with six houses, a fleet of Rolls-Royces and Bentleys and a writ in every post? No wonder there are contradictions.

"I see a guy that's still not really sure of himself." Tommy Brooks remarked while Tyson was gladhanding the reporters clustered around the temporary gym, smiling and chatting freely, as if no one had ever written a nasty word about him. "He wants to do the right thing, and he's trying to do the right thing, but it remains to be seen whether he can do it."

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False allegations are detrimental both to the children involved and the genuinely abused, whose plight may be overlooked because of the readiness to "cry wolf". Justified concern should always be a basis for inquiry, but the utmost care should be taken to avoid jumping to conclusions on the word of an accuser since allegations of child abuse are easy to make and hard to refute.

What it comes down to is the reliance we place on the professionals and institutions entrusted with identifying child abuse. No amount of vigilance will compensate for poor judgement. MADELINE GREENHALGH

The British False Memory Society Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire

Sir: Of course I agree with Yasmin Alibhai-Brown that people who illtreat kids should be reported. But the callers who think very carefully before grassing a neighbour are not burying their heads in the sand, but recognising the that it is a lot easier to put a child into care than to get him out again. Denouncing a family is likely to cause a lot of misery to a lot of people, including the child concerned. No wonder they

Ms Alibhai-Brown is right, it is terrible to be falsely accused of hurting your children. This happened to my wife and me, and the allegations included our teenage son, who was accused of abusing his sisters. It is a terrible thing to happen, but what is even worse is to be cleared by the police and the courts, yet still treated as an abuser by social services and barred from seeing your children. There is no appeal against their decision for my family and myself.

The slogan "best interests of the child" is used to justify whatever the social workers and the foster parents want. The whole system is cloaked in secrecy. There is no legal aid available for representation.

If Ms Alibhai-Brown wants to encourage people to act on the slightest suspicion over the way their neighbours are raising their kids, she should see what can be done to open up the system that takes so many children from their natural families, only to kick them out on the street again when they turn 18. One in four boys in jail are graduates of the care system. Do you call that "safeguarding the nation's children? THOMAS McCOURT Glasgow

#### Healing the NHS

Sir. The hypocrisy of the opposition party, repeatedly maligning the present government's efforts to right the devastation wreaked upon the NHS by that very opposition party, takes the breath away.

I experienced nursing and the NHS during the period of the Conservative Party's reforms. The whole ethos of nurse

care became a password, covering

training had been centred on the welfare of the patients, their needs, medical, physical and osychological and their rights as individual members of the human specialists and general race. This is not to say that the NHS was perfect. Finances were never plentiful and care was exercised over expenditure. As the then government's policies started to take hold the ethos started to change. Patient

glossy leaflets dotted around waiting rooms, GP surgeries and the like, while the old caring NHS now found itself overrun by men do not include "secret" and women of commerce, whose performance checks. Rather, the

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Signs of God No 3: At a service for the deaf at St Mary of the Angels, Canton, Cardiff, Sister Mary leads the 'hymn signing'

to enable the early detection of

emerging problems so that the

opportunity to put things right.

No crisis in drama

Sir: David Lister's article "RSC

hostility where none exists.

goes to war against National" (7

The RSC and the National

Theatre are two very different

organisations with different

to both organisations.

getting a little better.

ADRIAN NOBLE

TREVOR NUNN

Company

London SE1

purposes, but we have always

worked together and supported

each other. Funding discrepancies

Remarkably, the RSC and the

National have both survived, and

created between them dozens of

of standstill funding. Attempts to

fine productions, through six years

portray us as being at each other's

throats are merely mischievous at

a time when, at last, things may be

Director, Royal Shakespeare

Director, National Theatre

Sir: Ian Jack's Spot the

PETER MASKENS

Hornchurch, Essex

Sir: The Henge in the Sea

one of the most important

found on the Norfolk coast is

Northern Town Competition (9

January) revealed a large chip

on the shoulder. There is a

reciprocal lack of knowledge

about the South by those in the

North. Go to Newbiggin-by-the-

Sea and ask anyone to mark a

map with Basildon or Croydon.

between us are a matter of regret

doctors concerned have the

General Medical Council

**FINLAY SCOTT** 

Chief Executive

London W1

Tim Hetherington

Valachi says that the phrase "to

the early 1930s known as the

assassins in them to target

Castellamerese War. Gangs would

rent empty buildings and install

members of opposing factions.

to sleep on until the "job" was

done. The phrase "to go to the

mattresses" naturally came to

is used in The Godfather.

to their organisation - Cosa

CRAIG DUNFORD

Roman order

Belfast

acquire the meaning of starting a

gang war - the context in which it

Valachi is also responsible for

revealing the name that most New

York members of the "Mafia" gave

Sir; Robert Graves's tree alphabet

(letter, 7 January) has an unusual

order. Our alphabet, and the order

of its letters, is basically the Latin

one, which the Romans inherited

from the Greeks via the Etruscans.

But the Greeks didn't invent it.

Some Greek genius who knew the

Phoenicians' language adopted

their 22-letter alphabet to write

Greek. The Phoenicians had no

altered the sound of some letters

and invented others, placing the

new letter omega at the end. By

throughout the Mediterranean

early in the 8th century BC Greeks

Its Phoenician origin is proved by

the order of the letters - similar to

mean nothing in Greek, but do in

Semitic languages. Alpha means a

The Romans dropped a few

and made a slight alteration to the

Greek letters including omega

Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex

bull, beta a house etc.

MARY LANCH

alphabets used in Sinai - and by the

were using variants of this alphabet.

signs for vowels so the Greek

Since this often involved days or

weeks of surveillance, mattresses

were needed for the murder teams

brief was to drag it into the market

It would be impossible not to be saddened by the erosion of the caring principle. Managers increased and nurses decreased, leaving exhausted, frustrated nursing staff trying to make up the shortfall and fulfil their caring duties with situations quite often on the very brink of safety

What was the hidden agenda? Private health care? It certainly looked that way. The running-down of units, closing hospitals, closing wards, selling off hospitals. Shortage of beds, and facilities, patients being hawked from hospital to hospital in the hope of finding a bed and lifesaving treatment. Is it really surprising that men and women are now

reluctant to enter the profession? The present government will turn this sorry situation around. It will take years to redress the wrongs and put the heart back into

Mrs J DAVIES RGN (RETTRED) Maidstone, Kent

Sir: As getting assistance from the National Health Service is now a bit of a national lottery, why shouldn't the NHS get a bit of the National Lottery (or more than a **GEOFFREY STUTTARD** Chigwell, Essex

Sir: Your article "Undercover monitors to check on GPs" (4 January) is misleading. In November 1998, the General Medical Council decided that practitioners must be able to demonstrate - on a regular basis that they are keeping themselves up to date and remain fit to practise in their chosen field. A steering group has been set up to carry out further work in preparation for further discussion. on the implementation issues, in

The options being considered

#### aim is to foster a constructive and Mutual confidence helpful culture within which the majority of doctors who are doing a

Sir: Andrew Verity's report "Hewitt snubs societies' bid for protection" good job can demonstrate this and (7 January) quotes rather selectively from an interview I gave on the Today programme on 6 January. This letter aims to set out more fully what needs to happen before a building society can

What differentiates mutual societies from other organisations is that they are run for the benefit of their members (rather than external shareholders) each of whom has a vote, and that their January) creates the impression of boards are answerable to those members. So I do not think we ought to be surprised, or worried, if, from time to time, members a society's future. But a proconversion resolution tabled by members is (if passed) only one possible first stage in a much longer process. None of the societies that have converted, or been taken over, in recent years

> basis of a members' resolution. For such a resolution to be carried over half of those voting have to vote in favour. If such a resolution were to be passed -and so far none has been - then it would be for the board to decide what to do next. They are obliged to act in the best interests of their members. Only they can formally propose conversion. If they chose

might seek to vote in new directors

convert to a plc.

want to put down resolutions about has started down that road on the

to do nothing, then members

IN BRIEF

discoveries of the millennium

yet English Heritage has no

January). Of course it can be

plans save it! (report, 12

preserved in situ: with an

artificial harbour around it,

Rose style restoration work

surmounted by a dome. Mary

could then be undertaken. As

usual, the priority is financial.

and it disgusts me to contrast

this with English Heritage's

edited by Peter Maas in the late at the next opportunity, but that would take time - probably some years; and again, they would need go the mattresses" originated during an underworld upheaval in to achieve a majority of those

If the board were to propose conversion to the members, then an even stiffer voting hurdle would have to be overcome. First, a turnout of 50 per cent of investing members would be required, and 75 per cent of those voting would have to vote in favour, for conversion to take place. It was this government that raised the turnout threshold from 20 per cent to 50 per cent.

voting in order to succeed.

There are also separate voting arrangements for borrowing members. The majority of those voting also have to be in favour before a conversion can go ahead.

So whether or not building societies remain mutual is a very long way from being something that can be decided by 50 members. That is why this government does not see the need for more "protection" for societies. PATRICIA HEWITT Economic Secretary to the Treasuru London SW1

#### Mafia mattresses

Sir: Christopher Hawtree (Words, 12 January) is evidently unfamiliar with The Valachi Papers, the confession of low-level New York mobster named Joseph Valachi,

exotic plans totally to disrupt our own neighbourhood in order to convert Stonehenge into a lucrative theme park. ADRIAN TIBBITTS Shrewton, Wiltshire

Sir: The US Senators have sworn to judge the impeachment of President Clinton impartially. When they vote along party lines, who impeaches them? PETER ABBOTT London SE20

#### Sleaze in Brussels

Sir: You report that EU Commission "officials are stunned by the speed" with which concern has mounted over fraud in the EU revealed by Paul van Buitenen ("Sleaze row could ruin Santer's team", 8 January).

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This shows their utter complacency. For year after year, the EU accounts have been qualified by the auditors, on: budgets amounting to billions of pounds a year. Is it surprising that. Green and other members of the European Parliament are trying to take this opportunity to address the issue of EU fraud?

We are taxpayers in one of the countries which is a net payer to the EU, despite our rebate. Should we not be cheering on auditors and 🚉 MEPs trying to find out how our money has been wasted on fraud?

At the next European Parliament election in June. I hope we will all: remember which MEPs were supporting such parliamentary action, and which were trying to smother it. Pauline Green and her. Labour group show little sign of the concern for sound finance claimed so often by new Labour. JOHN NORRIS London TW9

Sir: Yesterday ("Santer fights prospect of sacking entire commission", 11 January) the European Union was Foreign News. Today ("Santer pledges wat: on Euro-fraud", 12 January) it is) Home News. Enough of this indecision: how about trying "European News"? STEVE EMMOTT Brussels

#### Labour turmoil

Sir. So there we have it. Gordon hates Tony. Tony hates Gordon. Robin hates Gordon Gordon hates Robin but not as much as Robin's ex-wife hates Robin. Donald hates Derry and vice versa. John hates Gordon, Robin and Tony. Everybody hates Peter. Alun bates Rhodri. Rhodri hates Alun. Tony. Gordon, Peter and Robin all hate Ken. Jack would like to bang heads together but he doesn't know where to start. Is that about right? CHRIS PAYNE Uxbridge, Middlesex

Sir. Tony Blair packed in no fewer than five rhetorical triads (such as "It is as New Labour that we were elected; it is as New Labour that we have governed: and it is as New Labour that we will continue to govern") in his address to your 🔐 readership (8 January).

A fondness for this contrived and wear isome device is one of the more venial vices he has inherited from Mr Major, who at least had the excuse of being ill-educated. But the constant harping on the number three evinces a new and sinister religiosity. It comes as no surprise, when, in the third paragraph, he chooses "to define

the Third Way in three areas". If there are any atheist socialists left out there (strange to think how, not so long ago, we might have been forgiven for thinking that we would inherit the earth), I suggest to you that this man is our Nemesis.

MATT CAVANAGH Oxford

Sir. The torrent of vulgar publicity concerning the peccadillos of leading politicians is a reminder of how much better the country was governed when major policy decisions were taken behind closed doors during country-house weekends. Don't any of our new masters read Trollope? P G ADDISON

#### Smoke and mirror

Sir: So the tobacco barons are to names of many of the letters, which flood the Third World with cigarettes and kill hundreds of thousands of souls a year (reports, 12 January). Just wait for the whingeing of Western politicians when the Third World reciprocates with cocaine and heroin DAVID HANN

## What's the word for a secretion of fluid from a statue?

I AM constantly deluged with agonised queries about the correct usage of words. I do not feel qualfied to answer many of them myalf, so I am glad to be able to turn to Dr Wordsmith, the language expert who always pops in to help me out when he can tear himself away from the pub. All yours, Doc!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, There was a time a few years back when the papers were full of reports of Hindu statues miraculously giving milk. I wonder if you remember this? Dr Wordsmith writes: No. I must have been in the pub at the time.

Well, take it from me, there was a time when lots of newspapers reported Hindu effigies exuding natural fluids such as milk and water,

they were in fact miraculously crying or giving milk. No explanation was given for this phenomena and after a while it stopped being reported. I assumed at the time that these were either fraudulent claims or some sort of wishful thinking, but never found out for sure. Of course they may have been some sort of communal hallucination. Dr Wordsmith writes: Excuse me. Do you have a question?

Yes. Is there a name for this process, whereby a story becomes common currency and then sinks into obscurity before it has ever been proved or disproved? Dr Wordsmith writes: I shouldn't think so for a moment. Next!

gular noun, when he wrote "this phenomena", whereas of course it is the plural form of "phenomenon". But then, in our careless age this happens increasingly often. "Data" is often treated as singular, as are "the media" and even "criteria" -I shudder every time I hear people say "By this criteria", but I suppose I am doomed to go on shuddering. What I wanted to know is, is there a name for the process of a plural word becoming its own singular? Dr Wordsmith writes: There may well be. If you should come across it, do not hesitate to let me know.

Recently I have noticed that an old trend is reasserting itself, ie that of writers calling themselves by their initials rather than a first name. In I notice that your last writer used the old days we had TS Eliot and and people claimed seriously that the word "phenomena" as a sin- EV Knox and HG Wells and so on,



**KINGTON** 

Dr Wordsmith writes: That's a very interesting point. I only wish I knew the answer. Next!

but then it became desperately unfashionable to use initials. I can't think of any writers in the Fifties.

Sixties or Seventies who did, except for the now rather forgotten BS Johnson, and perhaps DJ Enright. Now it's coming back again, and we have AS Byatt, AL Kennedy, PJ O'Rourke and many others.

Well, we live in a very informal age where total strangers go on chat shows and address each other by their first names, and indeed in some restaurants waiters and waitresses actually wear tags on their chests saying "Karen" and "Trevor", but I have noticed that when authors with initials go on chat shows, the presenters never know what to call them. Should PJ O'Rourke be called PJ or Patrick? And is there a name for this indecision between initials and name? And have you ever seen a waitress with a name tag that just gave her initials, as in "Hi! I'm AJ!"?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Not to the If the dustjacket of a book was debest of my knowledge. And the next!

I noticed the other day that the man across the road from me owns a car called a Volkswagen Passata. Not two hours later I noticed that a tin of processed Italian tomatoes in my kitchen cupboard was called Tomato Passata. Which is correct? Dr Wordsmith writes: I'm sure both are. Next!

Five or ten years back, there was a great vogue for words such as "yuppy" and "bimbo". You never hear either of these words any more, yet the people they refer to still exist. So what are they called nowadays?

Dr Wordsmith writes: That's a very interesting point. I only wish I knew the answer Next!

signed to keep off dust, was the flyleaf designed to keep off flies? Dr Wordsmith writes: Look, was I dragged out of the pub to answer damfool questions like these?

Damfool is an interesting word, being made up of an adjective and a noun. A bit like smartalec. Incidentally, do you know why it is particularly Alecs who are supposed to he smart?

Dr Wordsmith writes: In 10 minutes' time, I shall be standing at the bar of the Three Jolly Typesetters, and any smartalec who wishes to buy me a pint of stout will also buy my knowledge on the subject. Good day to you, sir!

Dr Wordsmith will be back again soon. Keep those queries rolling in!

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#### A fumbled chance to bring negligent police to book

THE REVELATION that only one police officer will be charged with neglect of duty for his actions during the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry shows how difficult it remains to hold the police to account. This Police Complaints Authority announcement shows that internal investigations are not tough enough to control a force that can mishandle witnesses, lose or destroy evidence and ignore promising leads.

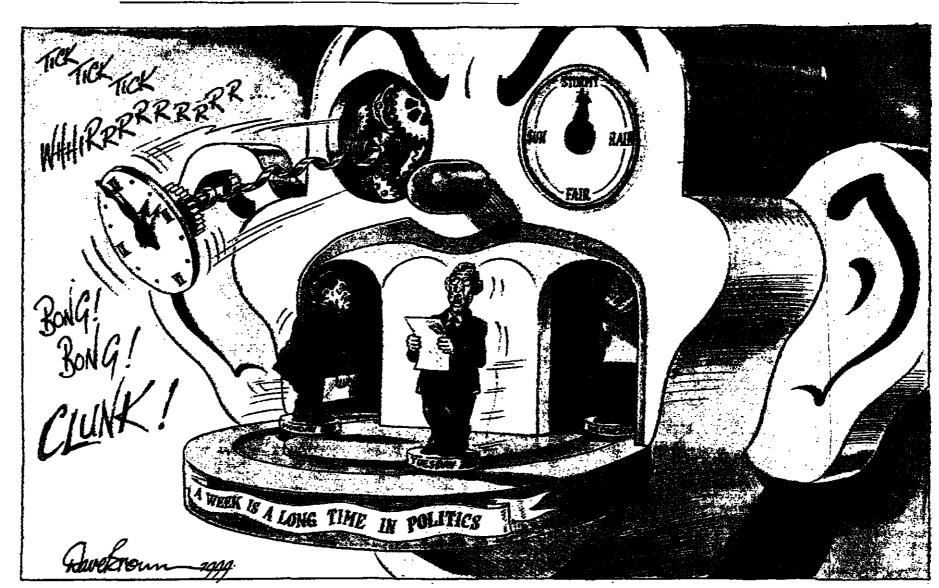
At least the report of the main inquiry into the Lawrence murder, the proceedings of which have shone such light into some dark places, is still pending. It will have to do better than this if it is to be credible. Failings that the Complaints Authority has played down specifically the failures to give proper first aid at the scene of the crime, and to keep a log book at the scene - ought to have resulted in more than the verbal warnings that

Other officers will escape action entirely. Three have already.avoided disciplinary action by the simple but all too common expedient of retiring before they could be punished, which is a pity. The PCA notes that more senior police personnel failed to build bridges with the family; it should have powers to call them to account, too, rather than meekly recommend that training be overhauled.

There is more at stake here than simply one miscarriage of justice - although the details of the Lawrence affair alone are shocking enough. Black Britons feel that they are discriminated against by the police, with "stop and search" policies falling disproportionately on them. Stephen Lawrence, a bright, articulate young man who was snuffed out by the racism of a few white thugs, has become an icon to them; he paid with his life for that same discrimination which plagues so many others in the black

A wider public are just as anxious to see this case resolved. They have watched with admiration the courage of Stephen's parents, which has become the strongest weapon in their campaign. That public will feel aggrieved today, and await with concern the report of the main inquiry. In the meantime, they will have to make do with the somewhat grudging public apologies of the Commissioner. That apology will do little to heal the Lawrence family's pain; only justice will do that.

The inquiry into Stephen's death was a mess, as the of this lack of progress. investigations carried out for the PCA by the Kent Constabulary revealed. The PCA should have the powers and courage to reflect this. It has fumbled an opportunity to made by a former inmate, which prompted the setting up demonstrate them; now others must. Dismissal should of the inquiry in 1997 by the then Conservative Health Secfollow serious censure of officers in the Macpherson retary Stephen Dorrell, have been confirmed. Management in the law itself.



#### Special hospitals in need of urgent surgery

BRITAIN'S SPECIAL hospitals are in trouble - and they have been for years, dragging Britain's shameful legacy of benighted lunatic asylums with them across the 20th century and, it now appears, to the brink of the 21st. The publication of Sir Peter Fallon's report into the Ashworth Special Hospital on Merseyside shows a dreadful example

The revelations contained in the report seem too shocking even to merit the word "disgrace". Many allegations

meant to house those convicted of abusing children - incompetence of an unimaginably high order.

These problems have existed for many years. Sir Louis Blom-Cooper conducted a government inquiry into them as long ago as 1991, reaching the conclusion that such institutions could not be saved. Only radical reform, he concluded, could salvage anything from the wreck. Why has it taken so many years for another report just to record similarly that the staff were unhappy and divided, the facilities were inadequate and the care was dismai".

Ashworth's problems were bad enough to come to the attention of any decent monitoring system. The staff's behaviour since the whistle was blown speaks for itself. The last two years have seen the sacking or resignation of two of Ashworth's chief executives and the resignation of a number of less senior staff.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health. inquiry, for anything less would subvert the public's trust seems to have let the system spin out of control, with drink announced his response to the Fallon report yesterday; pro-refusing to countenance a new approach, the Government and drug abuse rife. Pornography seeped into an institution cedures in the Personality Disorder Unit are to be tight- demonstrates an unwelcome and dangerous conservatism.

ened and a number of management staff dismissed. Vital measures, doubtless, but they do not go nearly far enough. Mr Dobson argues that abolishing special hospitals altogether would change only "bricks and mortar"; but the buildings reflect the ethos of an outdated system.

The mental health charity Mind has long advocated the only sensible resolution: special hospitals - including Rammton and Broadmoor, Ashworth's sister institutions should be closed down and replaced with a network of smaller, modern units. That would allow a range of different treatments to be adopted, rather than just dumping disturbed individuals - many of whom have committed no crime but are being confined on the basis of their theoretical danger - in virtual prisons.

No one is arguing that security around some of the most dangerous people in Britain should be loosened, but medical and psychiatric care require a higher priority. By

## Forget the gunboats – it's time for good old-fashioned diplomacy

A MONTH ago, Yemen was just the one could not ban it without coming mysterious Arabia Felix where they down on every other revolutionary built houses on top of rocks, chewed qut through the long hot afternoons and produced the odd unsettling, but distant coup. Now, events at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula have interposed themselves rudely on Robin . stifling dissent. Cook's torrid career. Instead of Britain accusing Middle East nationals of being party to terrorism, we find ourselves in the uncomfortable position of our own citizens being accused of plotting kidnappings and bombings in Yemen.

The trail of terror and confusion leads back, via the Internet, to the less exotic setting of Finsbury Park, from Shere Abu Hamza advertises his Islamic training camp with due regard for equal opportunities: "Special lectures for sisters regarding women and The second secon the role of women in the field of Jihad". His bark may be worse than his bite. We should be suspicious when so much attention is focused on a single loudmouth prepared to deliver soundbites about the need to avenge Angio-American "state terrorism". Mr Hamza has been preaching his views in the Finsbury Park mosque for some time. I imagine that they are rather well known to MI5 and the counter-terrorism squad.

Free speech is always the democratic principle we are keenest to throw away when it is others who are to be silenced, not us. It might not be very nice of Mr Hamza to carry in his Internet site passages of Osama bin Laden's philosophy such as: "The walls of oppression cannot be demolticipation in the Iraq bombing raids

group which believes in violent final conflict to resolve the class struggle. in the name of animal rights or to end repressive male hegemony. That has never proved an effective approach to

Mr Hamza is not really the problem.

More important is what his son (sought by the Yemeni authorities) and step-son (under arrest there) were doing there and how justified the Sana'a government is in its accusations against them. It would be a more rash person than I who would claim to know whether those detained are being fitted up by the Yemeni government or whether they are guilty of plotting the violence of which they are accused. The Foreign Office's dilemma is that it is exerting itself for people who may turn out to have been terrorists, many of whose supporters are

no enthusiasts for Western freedoms. As things stand, the accused are being held without charge and are being denied access to their lawyer, so Britain is duty-bound to help. I see no justification for the charge that Mr Cook has bungled things by delay, beyond a general desire to kick a politician when he is down. The pressure at such times is always to proceed with a bang and a rush - never to take

things steadily. But some situations defy haste. This one, which combines internal tribal feuds, the undigested aftermath of the unification of Yemen, the ill-feeling generated by Britain's parished except in a hail of bullets," but and the sensitivity in Sana's about the Yemen. The Cold War imposed its bru-lavish praise of his "superb" perfor-ation worse. This is one of them.



**ANNE MCELVOY** 

We must live with the consequences of giving fundamentalism a foothold in strategically vital Yemen

bungled hostage-release, demands a lot of looking before the leap

Some 10 years ago I spent a summer visiting diplomatic friends in Yemen, the most beautiful country I have ever seen. I have never been so hot as I was at the vast Marib damn. nor as exhilarated by the terraced mountain slopes, negotiated by heavily laden donkeys far more speedily than by our four-wheel vehicles.

Of fundamentalism, the only hint was being stoned by a crowd of women as a "Nazarene", having been foolish enough to stray into a religious area. The kidnapping of Westerners was an occasional inconvenience, politely conducted in order to extort roads and clean water from the government, swiftly concluded.

That was before the unification of

**MONITOR** 

troubled parts of the globe. The north of the Soviet Union's sphere of influence in the Middle East, where the Russians and East Germans sought - hopelessly - to centralise control in a tribal land by seeking to restrict the

days on which qut could be chewed. After the Berlin Wall fell, the Sana'a government re-imported fundamentalists from Saudi Arabia in order to chase out the Marxists in the south. Unification was in vogue everywhere. The West supported integration, believing that it would increase stability in the region. But we were cavalier

about the terms on which it happened. Whether Western governments would have approved of Mr Hamza planting explosives on behalf of the mujahedin also is a matter of dates. Osama bin Laden was a useful tool against Western enemies at the time. The end of the Cold War meant a realignment of friends and enemies whose less ethical implications were forgotten in the general relief and triumphalism nicely parodied (except he meant it) in PJ O'Rourke's boast: "We

kicked Commie ass." The trouble is, we live now with the consequences of how we kicked Commie ass in Afghanistan - a country bleeding itself to death - and helped give fundamentalism a foothold in the strategically vital country of Yemen. Using the sword of Islam against the hammer and sickle was a high-risk policy and we pay the price today.

I have had my doubts about Mr

tal simplicities here as it had in other mance was rank hyperbole. But on Yemen, he has the opportunity to was pro-Western, the south the heart rehabilitate himself by showing that he can hold his nerve in a situation which can not be resolved by the more dramatic means of mercenaries or gun boats. This one needs good, oldfashioned diplomacy

At the mention of the words "British nationals", however, rampant irrationalism sets in. Already, those who wish to raise the temperature of an already tragic situation with three Britons dead - are recommending Libyan embassy tactics. Apart from the practical objection that the prisoners are being held, inconveniently, in Aden and not in St James' Square, on all-out confrontation with the Yemeni authorities would simply play into the hands of Islamicists seeking to

strengthen their grip on power. Yesterday, Michael Howard compared the alleged tardiness of the Government in dealing with the prisoners in Yemen, with the stream of prisoner releases in Ulster. As the Conservatives support the Good Friday agreement, this was off-message

even by their own standards. More seriously, his attack on Mr. Cook risked fuelling aggression among some of the prisoners' supporters towards the British government. It was a shameful performance. the worse for coming from an intelligent and experienced former minister who knows that there are times when the national interest demands that the Opposition behaves loyally in Cook as Foreign Secretary, Mr Blair's order not to make a dangerous situ-

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"The whole thing was a mess from top to bottom." Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, on Ashworth Mental Hospital

#### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison." Henry David Thoreau. American writer



## BREAKDOWN ORGANISATION

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Se are dedicated to getting to you as We are dedicated to getting to you as quickly as possible when you break down. or my prisons to members in vulnerable

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**OR RENEW** 

"We are the victim of our own gensparency". That is not true. the European Commission president becomes a victim. then it is because he is not in control of his political business. Brussels now needs to be controlled. The 20 commissioners do not constitute a government, but they have long been more than an administration. What is lacking is a clear distribution of power, a Constitution for Europe. This

JACQUES SANTER complains: will not be attained in the short term. The mess caused by the commissioners does not warrant the resignation of all of them, but the most incompetent commissioners must go. Die Welt, Germanu

> EDITH CRESSON [France's commissioner] is accused of adviser, and Manuel Marin [Spain's commissioner] is criticised for a lack of control over the negotiation of the commu-

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

European comment on the allegations of corruption in the EU Commission

ages. These do not seem suffihiring a personal friend as an cient motives to unleash a cri- stigators of the confrontation. sis of such proportions. The are taking advantage of some real reasons are different community funds that he man- nity budget has poisoned

things. Germans and Dutch, inminor irregularities to justify a drastic cut in European social funds, to which Santer is an ob-

damaged by a dispute inopportune for the EU and incomprehensible to the public. El Mundo, Spain

THE GOVERNMENT needs a Commission that can support its Agenda 2000 plans with courage and competence. The government must support Santer and his team. But it must the European Parliament and now, still on everyone's lips. their anger with Brussels, and

stacle. The Commission will be it also has to think ahead to the European elections in June. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany

DELEGATES FIND themselves in a delicate situation, torn between the terror of censure and the unease of coming across as trying to keep a lid on a Commission that is not even going to try to make amends: the also show consideration for scandals of which are, even

Le Soir, Belgium

## THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW The Independent 13 January 1999

#### **PANDORA**

NOW THAT Lord Falconer has taken control of the Millennium Dome, the project's environmentalist critics find themselves facing a familiar - and formidable opponent. Once described as a "left-wing Tory" by a Labour MP. Falconer was a high-flying lawyer, said to earn £500,000 a year, who first met Tony Blair when they were schoolboys in Edinburgh and who later. shared a Wandsworth house with the future Prime Minister Greenpeace, who are vociferous critics of the Dome's HFC-cooled airconditioning system, remember Charles Falconer from his days when he advised the arch-foe British Nuclear Fuels. Unfortunately, when Pandora rang Lord Meichett, the head of Greenpeace, yesterday to solicit his reaction to Falconer's new Dome responsibilities, the noble environmentalist was out of the office nursing an injured knee. Hopefully, he will mend soon and return to share his views on Falconer.

TWO OF the Internet's ' greatest claims to fame are about to combine to create yet another unprecedented cyber-event. The Net's infinite supply of pornography and its most famous journalistic scoop (the Web gossip columnist Matt Drudge's breaking of the Monica Lewinsky story) will soon join up when something called Primal Entertainment launches a "live re-enactment of the Starr Report" featuring performers depicting the intimate encounters between the President and Monica Lewinsky". It won't be free, however, but only available to adults who "purchase tickets with a major credit card". The porn star Ron Jeremy has been engaged both to direct and star as Bill Clinton in this most inappropriate of all broadcasts, set for 25 January. Well, it had to happen, didn't it?

AN ARTICLE appeared in the Daily Mail yesterday by "leading left-wing commentator" Melanie Phillips. This billing must have raised eyebrows all over the country, for Phillips has not exactly established herself as a bright star in this country's leftist firmament. In 1997, for example, she gave a lecture to the Centre for Policy Studies in which she attacked modern liberalism for its emphasis on personal freedom and individual rights, warning New Labour "to rein back individualism restoration of true liberai

Left wing, yes, but according to a late-18th-century definition. As for Melanie's view on the current hospital crisis, yesterday's article proclaims: "the modern nurse often considers it beneath her to make sure that an elderly patient who can barely move is comfortable on her pillows, or that her hair is washed." This haughty indictment of an entire beleaguered profession is radical all right, but leftist?

READERS KEEN to purchase a new brand of scent provocatively called "Viagra" had better go surfing as soon as possible. The dubious perfume is for sale only over the Internet. but the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, manufacturer of the male rejuvenation miracle drug, is bringing a suit against a firm called Park Plaza Fragrances which, presumably, is a specialist in the techniques of the hard smell.

SOME FIERCE charges against the European Commissioner Edith Cresson are being lodged by an Irish MEP, Nuala Ahern of the Leinster Green Party, in connection with the ongoing Brussels funding controversy. But none so ferocious as her charge, in a press release obtained by Pandora, that Mme Cresson receives "private astrology forecasts" from a long-time friend, René Berthelot, a dentist, who has been appointed to co-ordinate the EU's Aids research efforts. Shades of Nancy Reagan, who used to consult her astrologer before advising her husband Ronnie on his schedule! Pandora looks forward to the promulgation of an effective cross-border horoscope-monitoring authority.

"IT WAS genuinely . hilarious," the unnamed source told yesterday's New York Post about a reported sighting of the most personal asset of Ewan McGregor (pictured) at to Versace menswear show in Milan. "The people who got the best view were

laughing the hardest." Apparently those people were sitting directly across the catwalk from McGregor's firstrow seat when he unzipped and flashed his light sabre for a brief instant. The Trainspotting star is soon to debut as Obi-Wan Kenobi in George Lucas's longawaited prequel to Star Wars. "People were chattering, but this kind of shuts you up.

It's the kind of thing

expecting," said the

source. Quite.

you're not

For sale: one human guinea pig "HAVE A glass of wine," I said to my friend Lulu It was Sunday afternoon and she had been helping me sort

out old clothes for the charity shop all morning. That's what friends are for. Lulu replied that she would love to but she dared not; she was having tests on Tuesday morning and she wanted her body to be absolutely pure. Coming from someone usually referred to as Late-night Lulu, this pious abstention seemed a trifle optimistic - too little too late. Tests for what, I asked, pouring myself a large glass of rioja. Oh, said Lulu vaguely, she was

going to do another of those human guinea-pig things like the one she did last year for Alzheimer's, remember I did; unfortunately Lulu didn't. I should mention here that my friend Lulu is always skint. Three feckless husbands, five children and a series of disastrous jobs - including running an all-night launderette in Oropesa del Mar, a sort of dormitory village for commuter tourists quite a long way east of Torremolinos (nobody washes anything on holiday) - haven't done much for her financial stability. She's always looking for ways to



#### ARNOLD

Three husbands, five children and a string of disastrous jobs have left my friend Lulu skint

make a fast buck. Just before Christmas she tried to sell me a burglar alarm so small but yet so sensitive, she claimed, that I could keep it in the fridge. If she sold 10 of them by Christmas she'd get £200 commis-

sion and promotion to area manager I said I had enough junk in my fridge already without adding a burglar alarm to the confusion, and to her credit she didn't harass me.

Last summer she told me excitedly that she was going to a clinic near Bournemouth to be a human guinea-pig for a new drug they had just invented to cure Alzheimer's, for which she would be paid £800. Isn't it dangerous, I asked. What will they do to you? Lulu said it wasn't a bit dangerous; her friend Gerald had put her up to it. He had already done it. This did not bode well.

Gerald is an old friend of Lutu's (I think they met at the launderette in Oropesa del Mar) who is also permanently broke. He's 50ish, a retired wing commander invariably dressed in a white cashmere scarf with a flower in his buttonhole. You'd never guess that he lives in a squat near Lewisham.

Lulu said she had passed the preliminary test; now, she said, all she had to do was stay at the clinic, take a few pills, have a few brain scans, and Bob's your uncle - 800 quid. I telephoned her two weeks later. She sounded fine. "Tell me all about it. What did they do? Do you feel sick?" I wanted to know. "Never felt better in my life," she said, but she honestly didn't remember much about it. Two of the other guinea-

pigs, a married couple, had been sent home half-way through the course and were furious because they had been relying on the money to pay for their new fitted kitchen.

This time round it was much more lucrative. She was getting £3,000 to take a series of pills for a month for something called stress incontinence. I said I'd rather not hear about it, but if they were paying her £3,000, the pills must surely have dangerous side-effects. At the very least she would probably end up with stress incontinence, which would seriously restrict her social life. Lulu said that for £3,000 she was prepared to take the risk, and anyway they didn't seem to have done

Gerald any harm.
Three thousand pounds does seem a lot of money for taking a few pills. I know that some of my daughter's student friends (male) used to supplement their grants by regular visits to the sperm bank. They were paid £30 a shot. It was all very discreet. In the waiting-room they were not called by their names but by numbers - B52, P45, that sort of thing. And when their numbers were called they were given not just

an empty test-tube but a selection of magazines (quality) and magazines (top-shelf) to read while they were about it.

Now, following the recent House of Lords recommendation to decriminalise marijuana for medical purposes, everyone's queuing up to

be pot guinea-pigs. I know a lot of people who would do it for nothing. Apart from selling a pint of blood in Thessaloniki for £10 when I rang out of money back-packing in Greece donkey's years ago, I've never sold my body for science. More fool me.

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When mad cow disease was first diagnosed three years ago a splettdid old lady of 92 I know up in the Highlands wrote to a well known teaching hospital in London offering herself as a human guinea-pig for BSE research. "I've lived quite long enough," she wrote. "I give you carte blanche to inject my brain with anything you like, and if I do foam at the mouth at least I shall have done something to improve the human race.

They wrote back politely declining her offer. She sounded pretty batty already, they said.

## Let's rule out this daft talk of merger with the Liberals

HOW TYPICAL that Labour should feel that the best way of resolving our current difficulties is a "relaunch" Rational people, faced with a series of disasters on the scale that Labour has suffered in recent weeks, would be more likely to consider it worthwhile to examine why these problems have occurred, before they decide how to respond to them. Labour Party members and MPs have been lectured for years about the need for restraint and selfdiscipline for fear that public policy rows may damage our standing in the polls, yet almost all the real damage inflicted on Labour has come from the very top of the party.

The party machine launched a Labour leadership did not lose a single vote at last year's party conference, largely by the expedient of allowing only votes the leadership could win. But we have to ask ourselves what would have been more damaging for the Labour Party: honest debates at the conference on issues such as taxation, the NHS and Iraq, or problems raised by Harriet Harman's choice of school for her children, the Bernie Ecclestone affair, Derek Draper's cash for access scandal, and Notting Hill Gate.

Some of our problems stem from the fact that Tony Blair has allowed the impression to grow that he may be prepared to stand down as Prime Minister during his second term. I have always dismissed this idea as rubbish. Why on earth should a successful prime minister stand down from the most exciting and challenging post in British politics when he is barely 50 years old? I wouldn't be surprised if Tony Blair ends up beating Clem Attlee's record of 20 years as Labour leader, at the age of 61. I may even be able to look down at him delivering a graveside eulogy at my own funeral!



#### KEN LIVINGSTONE

The trouble with this strategy is that it is founded on a complete ignorance of British history

It's about time Tony Blair knocked all this nonsense on the head by letting it be known that he has no plans for early retirement, and ministers should concentrate all their energies on the task of reelecting this government. Tony Blair should also start to loosen up the present obsessive opposition of the party machine to frank and honest ates about issues of policy. In this case the place to start is at the top. Instead of the present 30-minute Cabinet encounter-group-style feelgood experience, whereby ministers rubber-stamp what Labour's Big Three have already agreed, we should revert to full discussion across the whole range of policy. Until some ghastly little creature in the Millbank Tendency comes up with constitutional proposals for presidential government, our constitution is still based on the concept of Cabinet government,

among equals. But far and away the most important issue that Tony Blair needs to resolve is the question of our re-

with the Prime Minister as first

lationship with the Liberal Democrats and the trade unions. More than anybody else, Peter Mandelson is the figure identified with "The Project", a strategy aimed at severing Labour's links with the trade unions and undertaking a full merger with Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats. The fullest expression of this strategy appeared in Philip Gould's recent book, The Unfinished Revolution: "the better course would be for Labourism and Liberalism to unite. But this will not be easy. It will require the Labour Party to be generous, to reach out to a smaller party when in a position of great strength."

It would be easy to dismiss Philip Gould's writings. He has never been sought election to Labour's NEC, but he remains one of the half a dozen most important figures around Tony Blair. His analysis of polling figures and his conduct of Labour's focus groups have been the basis for Labour's electoral strategy. His memos have rained down on Tony Blair from the very beginning of Tony's campaign to gain the T abour leadership, and even a cursory reading of his book reveals that they have almost always formed the basis of Tony Blair's electoral strategy.

Tony's speech to the 1997 party conference seemed to endorse Gould's strategy: "division among radicals almost 100 years ago resulted in a 20th century dominated by conservatives".

The trouble with Gould's strategy is that it is founded on a complete ignorance of British history. It was not the rise of the Labour Party that led to the downfall of the Liberals, because the Liberals had been in electoral decline for half a century before the Labour Party was established in 1900. The reasons for this are clear. The Liberals were the party of classical loissez-foire cap-



adda yeddomu mira ative committee meeting Ian Waldie/Reuters

italism - as they could afford to be Tories were to represent capital, in an era when Britain dominated the world economy. The rise of the American and German economies meant that it was essential for British capital to protect itself, turning to the Conservatives who had a strongly protectionist slant, expressed in the concept of imperial preference for British firms within the empire.

The fate of the Liberals was sealed in the 1886 split, when Liberal Unionists crossed the floor of the House in opposition to Irish Home Rule and fused with the Tories, whose vote then rose inexorably to a peak of 55 per cent in the 1931 general election. Like most parties in decline, the Liberals exacerbated the process by personality conflicts and internal leadership struggles.

The creation of the Labour Party was not some unfortunate sectarian error. It was inevitable that a new party would rise to fill the void left by the Liberals and inevitably that party would define itself in terms of its relationship to the Tories. If the Democrats.

then as night follows day the new party would be based on the trade unions, particularly as this coincided with the enfranchisement of growing numbers of working-class people. Labour's success was that it gradually came to represent both working-class and middle-class interests, and created a welfare state that benefited both.

Even if Labour were now to fuse with the Liberal Democrats, it would not produce the result that Gouldwants. Millions of Liberal Democrat voters would be likely to switch to the Tories rather than vote Lab-Lib, thus making it more rather than less likely that the Tories could return to power. By contrast, if the Liberal Democrats remain a separate political party, then in Labour's bad years they could find themselves holding the balance of power.

Tony Blair could ease a lot of the suspicion amongst Labour's rank and file by unequivocally ruling out any merger with the Liberal

## \*THE INDEPENDENT

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#### Islam is a religion of tolerance AS WE enter the new

millennium, we need to think of the world that is forming around us, a world that juxtaposes different cultures, religions and traditions. We need to appreciate that in this world unexpected allies and opponents will be lining up. It is essential to keep before us the one point that links us and provides the greatest bridge between the Jewish

We need to be aware of this link and move towards each other - not for negative reasons such as the need to ally ourselves against hatred of Islam or hatred against Jews, but because of the common source that nourishes us, the idea of the one God and the examples

of the great Prophets. Whatever its critics say. Islam is above all a religion of compassion and tolerance. As a Muslim, I am proud of this great legacy and heritage of Islam, and it is this sense of pride that prepares me for the troubled times ahead, as the planet itself, beset by ecological, economic and demographic problems, seems on the point of exhaustion.

In sharp contrast is the anti-

Semitism prevalent in Europe. Christians widely believed that Jews were Christ-killers and so had to be punished. Christian crusaders against the Muslims often began their European journeys by slaughtering Jews. European history is drenched in Jewish blood. Hitler's Glaubenskrieg - the war against Jews as a people - was the culmination of a millennium of anti-Semitism. It and Islamic civilisations: belief. has rightly come to be seen as one of the darkest stains on the human conscience.

Anti-Semitism is far from dead in Europe today. As a Muslim I know that whenever there is evidence of Islamophobia, or hatred against Islam and Muslims, the signs of anti-Semitism are not far behind. Perhaps it is this generalised anti-Semitism that has prompted Jewish intellectuals to yearn for the ordinary life, to be left alone to get on with their

lives. That is what traditional Jews hoped to find in Israel. But there was the reality of having to deal with another ancient people aiready living there, the Palestinians. Forced expulsion from their homes, and countless other humiliations, are at the core of the pre-



AKBAR AHMED

From a lecture given by the fellow of Selwyn College, Oxford, at London's Liberal Jewish Synagogue

sent tragedy between Jews and Muslims. The irony is that in the Middle East neither civilisation is able to live fully in the ways either of the Torah or the Qur'an because of their intense and violent confrontation.

Just as there is anti-Semitism in society, so there is Islamophobia, which is pervasive and dangerous and influences people at all levels of society. These critics cite terrorist outrages or isolated in-

while completely ignoring the extraordinary achievements of Muslim civilisation, such as the architectural wonders of the Taj Mahal and the mosque in Córdoba, and the many and varied contributions to the arts, science and engineering.

Muslims brings consequences. There is a cause and effect. We have seen this in the Balkans only recently. The death and rape camps in the Balkans and the outside world's general indifference to them served as a reminder that Islamophobia is very much alive and with us. I want to put on record that in the anguish and anger are acknowledged; and unless felt by Muslims over the Balkan horrors, perhaps the most notable sympathisers were the Jews. It was obvious that the sufferings in the Balkans echoed their own terrible suf-

ferings half a century before. Muslims must, therefore, stop seeing everything negative that happens in the Muslim world in terms of a Jewish

conspiracy. It is patently not. By the same token, Muslims cannot be anti-Semites. The early Muslims - the Arabs were themselves Semites.

fringements of human rights Anti-Zionism is a separate matter. Having been founded in modern Europe, Zionism is seen as a foreign import to the Middle East. Its success in creating Israel complicates matters for Muslims. Thus the loss of Palestinian lands are seen with a sense of injustice The general hatred against and anger among Muslims.

It would be foolish to think there can be a quick end to the confrontation that exists between religions and nations today unless Muslims feel that some genuine sense of tolerance and compassion is shown towards the Palestinian people; unless Muslim rights to one of their holiest cities, Jerusalem, the sense of hostility expressed in the media is checked

Muslims, Jews and Christians must find a way of living peacefully together. If we cannot think in terms of our common noble religions as representing the ideal, then let ? us think in terms of our common cultural heritage. Let us' try to live up to the best they can achieve, and look away from the baseness and violence that is sometimes expressed as part

of the response.

المكناب الاجل

ONESDAY REVIEW

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## Welcome to a two-tier society

IT IS not often that a single advertising campaign contains the germ of an entire social critique, but Beecham has managed it with its winter push for Lemsip Max. The campaign takes advantage of the recent Sydney flu epidemic with a flagship television advertisement in which a middleaged male executive bursts in on a secretary and asks whether her boss has everything in place for that important meeting on Thursday. She replies that her chap has the flu and won't be back until Monday. He slaps some Lemsip Max on the desk and declares in steely tones that he will be seeing the hapless absentee bright and early on Thursday morning. The poster campaign puts it more straightforwardly: "Stop snivelling and get back to work!"

It may not seem like much, but it's all there. First, the primacy of the workplace. All must be sacrificed so that you can be at your desk, for there is no more important place to be. Second, the continuing distrust between workers and management. Rising absenteeism must point only to a malingering workforce, not to an overstressed one. Third, the contempt private business has for the public services. No one should feel ashamed that a deadly epidemic that has ravaged a weakened National Health Service has become a petty marketing opportunity rather than a blueprint for far-reaching social change.

But who can blame Beecham for paying no attention to the lessons the NHS has to offer us about working practices in Britain today? Few people are. Certainly the Government isn't. More money may be coming the way of the NHS, but that isn't all that's needed. Far more radical strategies are demanded here and elsewhere, but instead we are offered impotent tamperings with the status quo.

Take the Government announcement yesterday that it is setting up a register of nanny agencies in an attempt to reassure working parents that their children are in safe hands. Ministers were previously considering a register of individual nannies, but the idea was vetoed by Downing Street as being too bureaucratic (New Labour code for "expensive") and a restriction of parental choice (New Labour code for 'untenable in the socially divided country that we are pleased to govern").

This legislation wouldn't have helped the Eappen family, who lost eight-month-old Matthew, or the Stacey family, who lost fivemonth-old Joseph, even though it is ostensibly in response to these high-profile tragedies. So whom is it going to help? The nurses who are staying at home to bring up their children not only because they can't afford the kind of childcare that nannying agencies offer, but also because NHS rosters are too inflexible for them to

combine work and family? Certainly not. These new rules will make childcare found through formal channels still more expensive, and top-flight nannies will remain the luxury they were at the turn of the century. And since nurses are already at the bottom of the pay heap, as there apparently isn't the money in the public coffers to fund them, feminism's airy ideas that the next move forward for women is decent state childcare are not just insulting to them. but irrelevant to everyone.

Who looks after the children while women are out seeking equality in the workplace? Poorer women, that's who. And money isn't just a problem when it comes to finding a nanny. Perhaps an au pair is a cheaper alternative, but only if there is



#### DEBORAH ORR

Can't afford agency rates for nannies? Haven't got a spare room? No car? There's only one career open to you: Mum

room in your ever-more-expensive privately owned house for a live-in help. A shared childminder is a good idea, too, but make sure you keep the car running to ferry them back and forth. Can't afford agency rates for nannies? Haven't got a spare room? Don't have a car? In that case, only one career is open to you, Mum. Better look after your child and someone else's too.

It's an odd kind of feminism that, almost by definition, requires a two-tier system within female society for it to move forward. Where's the equality in a society where some women have to earn a great deal so that they can afford to pay other women to look after their children? How long do we have to persist with this two-jobs-for-theprice-of-one model, ignoring its laughable contradictions and awful social cost?

There is a real alternative, one that the plight of the nurses is screaming at us to consider. It's not surprising that it is within nursing that the difficulties facing working women should be thrown into the starkest relief. Nursing, of course, was historically a female profession, and nurses have been expected to carry on working largely under conditions designed for caring young women who have not yet married and, therefore, live at home with no financial commitments. (Even the careerstructure changes that have been made are benefiting male nurses most. They have been finding it much easier to climb the modest ladder that is now in place for them.) Another thing that hasn't changed for nurses is that when they complain they're accused of caring not for their vocation but for career advancement, trouble-making, lefty politicking. Just like the good old days, when a woman who didn't want to give up her career for home and children had something wrong with her.

We cannot return to that nightmare. But what we can do is really start concentrating on the idea that equality, just like charity, begins at home. Let's all - men and women - stop being so macho about work and start seriously considering the prospect of working not a five-day, 40-hour week, but four days a week, or three. Let's all start spending more time with our families, while we still have them. It'll mean a smaller salary, but it'll mean smaller childcare bills, too. It'll also mean, among advantages too numerous to mention, less stress, less absenteeism, less tension between women and men, less unemployment, better parenting and more of that leisure we were once promised in the bright and shiny future that has become our dark and dangerous present.

So what is stopping us? At present Britain has longer working hours than



The prospect of being able to afford a nanny is as remote for most mothers as it was at the turn of the century Keystone

any other country in Europe, and the most hardly ever see (no wonder depression is recent British Social Attitudes survey found that 25 per cent of the workforce would be happy to work shorter hours for less pay. Research carried out last year by the London School of Economics suggested that even a miserly cut in working hours to 35 hours a week - would decrease unemployment by a million. Meanwhile stress-related illnesses are out of control, and parents have children whom they

on the increase among kids). We are workobsessed while, at the same time, we complain about the dumbing-down of our culture. Who has time to spare to lavish on culture, except cultural workers?

What's stopping us, naturally, are the bods who head up industry. The CBI claims that a shorter working week would reduce profits. But is that necessarily correct? The sectors of the economy that are expanding

include leisure, tourism, music, fashion and the service industries. Wouldn't more people working fewer hours mean more customers for these industries and, therefore, further expansion? And wouldn't the redistribution of work rather than wealth mean more people paying lower taxes and a reduction of the burden on the welfare state? Wouldn't we, quite simply, be happier? Or should I just stop snivelling and get back to work?

#### **RIGHT** OF REPLY

DAVID MELLOR



The chairman of the Football Task Force replies to criticism of its blueprint to encourage football

FOOTBALL CLUBS stand accused by the Office of Fair Trading of acting as a cartel in selling TV rights to Sky and the BBC. The Independent has made up its mind. "Football will win," it pronounced, "if we defeat this cartel."

There are good reasons why sports leagues sell rights collectively - unlike other companies they depend on each other for survival, otherwise they would have nobody to play against and there would be no one to watch.

Leagues negotiate TV deals on a collective basis so that their money can be shared between members. helping to ensure healthy competition. Money from these deals can also be reinvested throughout the sport.

Too much money is concentrated at the top of the game, but it is wrong to argue that the way to address this is to break up collective negotiations. Even if individual deals do succeed in bringing more income into football, it will be concentrated in the hands of an even smaller number of clubs than at present.

There may be a way out of all this that would satisfy both sides. The court can allow a restrictive agreement if it can be shown to bring "significant and substantial" benefits to the public. Could not a deal be struck whereby the Premier League would agree to sell rights to televise matches to a wider range of broadcasters? In addition, it could commit to a level of investment in grassroots facilities that the OFT would consider acceptable.

Negotiations for the broadcasting of matches should continue to be done centrally through the Premier League, and the league should continue to reinvest the money. If the OFT digs in its heels and refuses to concede any ground, I can see no other alternative than the break-up of English football.

## We're not so easily shocked

AN AEROBICS teacher from New York, with a row of white teeth so perfect they stand as monuments to American dentistry, wants to educate us about our bodies. Her natural genre would be the self-help book or exercise video. But Emily Jenkins, who is nearing 30, has a different mission. In Tongue First, named after her first French kiss, Jenkins is clearly trying to imitate the classic feminist texts that have come before her. Not Lotte Berk and Jane Fonda, but Naomi Wolf and Elizabeth Wurtzel are her role models.

In a series of anecdotes taken almost entirely from her own unremarkable history, Jenkins wants to focus on a contradiction, "how the body is both a prison and a vehicle for adventure". She promises us journeys into realms we have never trespassed into before, "wildest adventures". She promises to take us with her as she experiences strip shows, having her head shaved ("chosen baldness"), being "Rolfed", appearing nude in public and, of course, "fuck-

I could hate

those frail maids fading beautifully

in books, wax lilies, pale-succulent

stalks that might snap

at a touch. The bird-dropping of blood

in a lace-bordered handkerchief

like the monstrance on the nuptial sheet.

A consummation most devoutly wished

by death. The maiden turns,

The state of the s



#### WEDNESDAY BOOK

TONGUE FIRST: ADVENTURES IN PHYSICAL CULTURE BY EMILY JENKINS, VIRAGO, £9.99

slim volume in search of the dirty bits. No luck expensive fads, most of which originate in The naughtiest thing I could find was a reference to indigestion in relation to underwear. A friend of the author's, like the author herself, dismisses thongs (to my mind the most sensuous item of clothing ever invented) on the grounds that "I feel like my farts can't get out. Something's blocking them!"

And the physical adventures I was so looking forward to all turn out to be things that you pay for just like aerobic classes. The "wildest adventures" - colonic irrigation, flotation tanks, acupuncture and "Rolling" (in which your body I confess to first flicking excitedly through this is "realigned" by painful massage) - are all

in woodcuts from another age

of plagues, to his knuckleboned touch,

half smiling; the consumptive turns

on her lace-bordered pillow

weakly and away

from any warmth of flesh

as if stung; the anorexic turns

her face towards these stories, stories

which, because I love the girl,

physicality, but cost.

For all her Wurtzel-like lunges into the wilder shores of physical experience, Jenkins can't helo but descend into unadulterated consumerism. She gives us far too much detail about the shades

> us their names in case we want to run to the cosmetic counter and order some for ourselves. She spends several pages agonising over what she is going to wear to a New York publishing party -should it be pale yellow, or a little black number? She excuses such unremitting self-indulgence with odd splashes of cod sociology. "Makeup is a tool by which we shame, flaunt, and mould

> of lipstick she likes to wear, conveniently telling

America. The one thing that links them is not

our inner landscapes along with our exteriors," she says, after recommending Desire lipstick in "its little phallic tube". The only really sexy things are those you can

buy. There's nothing better at stimulating dirty thoughts than the dollar.

The purpose of this book is not to highlight any contradiction. Not that I would like it any better if it were, as "contradiction" must be the most overused word in any budding author's proposal. The shameless purpose of this book is to titillate and shock. But it feebly fails to do so. The The adventurous author displays her tattoo location in which the author took off all her clothes in front of strangers was not Fifth Avenue, but on a nudist beach, where it would have been far more daring to have remained fully clothed. To talk about sex, she tours the shelves of her local bookshop, using this as a limp excuse to quote liberally and paraphrase such daring titles as The Hite Report and The Joy of Sex. Her most erotic outing is to see the Chippendales. No adventurer could be more timid.

Tongue First is classic writing of a sort, but perhaps not the sort the author intends. It has none of the acute analysis or academic authority of her feminist forerunners. Instead, it is a



classic of unfocused adolescent ramblings. Only those who have recently voyaged out of puberty link farts and sex - as Jenkins does. And, just like an adolescent, the only subject that really interests the author is herself.

This book may have a sexy title, but it is shockingly anodyne. Despite all attempts to appear otherwise (a tattoo, one session of drug-taking, 'chosen baldness"), Emily Jenkins emerges from this coy book as a cross-legged young woman with few insights. However her physical exterior is packaged, inside she is just the girl next door

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for the 1998 Whitbread Poetry Award

Philip Gross's 'The Wasting Game' (Bloodaxe, £6.95) was shortlisted

WEDNESDAY POEM

FROM 'THE WASTING GAME'

BY PHILIP GROSS

## THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

## Naomi Mitchison

IF THE word had not acquired such disagreeable connotations of bossiness, I would sum up the author Naomi Mitchison as the Platonic idea of the matriarch. Everyone who knew her wanted in some sense to belong to her clan.

She came of a distinguished Scottish family, the Haldanes, which made her conscious of the meaning of family all her life. That meaning changed for her with the development of her own ideas. She became the matriarch of a splendid tribe of children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. She lived to be over 100 and her light brown hair had become pure white, but her blue-grey eyes were penetrating as ever and her charming pink complexion was scribbled over by the interesting

lines of old age.
In youth she was remarkable for her short resilient figure, which she never bothered to compress into stays though, as she narrated in her memoirs, Richard Crossman's wife Zita did eventually persuade her that a bra was not to be despised. She loved wearing loose hair and loose robes like a woman of ancient Greece, with a fillet and chunks of raw amber to hold them together. Her sandals could be regarded equally as emblems of classical Greece or

Finally, her special views of the family as an outgoing rather than a nuclear unit led her to an extraordinary relationship with an African tribe. She was invited to become the Mmarona (mother) of the Bakgatla of Botswana. The adventure had begun accidentally when she was stranded while travelling. A chief offered her hospitality; in time a filial relationship toward her grew up. Even in her nineties she travelled out to visit and advise her African "children" and shared a bedroom with the chief's daughter, where they talked and laughed together far into the night.

Naomi's sense of humour - wry, ironic, witty - was one of her most endearing characteristics. In later years she wrote of authorship and publishing with typical amusement: "Today, if one wants to write about something special [she always did!], one has to persuade a publisher that this was something he had already thought of." Another delightful trait was her voice: slow and emphatic with a lilt that was definitely not a two girls, the eldest son dying in drawl; more like what I imagine to have been the kind of voice possessed by a Celtic prophetess reading the never forgot. The close mystical link amazingly light in the hand. Her 1952 novel Trovel Light was an imaginative metaphor for her own life style. Dione says these words - "and it was

cessful barrister, G.R. (Dick) Mitchison MP (later Lord Mitchison), she never allowed herself to be weighed down by possessions. A superbly generous and entertaining host to her friends who visited her at Carradale House in Argyllshire, she was always deeply interested in establishing family-type relationships with the Scottish workers, her neighbours, the lord-of-the-manor or ladybountiful concepts being utterly

repugnant to her Despite a trace in her of romanticism (she liked jumping over bonfires at midnight and sallying forth with a gun to shoot a sheep for dinner), her attitude to the local farm workers and fishermen was not in the least sentimental. She showed her practical spirit by standing as Labour candidate for the Scottish universities in 1935 and by sitting on the Argyll County Council as a Labour representative, from 1945 to 1966. She was a member of the Highlands and Islands Development Council, 1966-76.

Meanwhile she had worked devotedly for her socialist husband in denly loosened and vibrated inside her. The baby was coming alive and

moving in her for the first time." It is generally agreed that her finest novel, and perhaps the best historical novel of the 20th century, is The Corn King and the Spring Queen (1931). The exciting and moving story is based on her knowledge of ancient Greece, Egypt and the lands around the Black Sea. Living with her family in Oxford, she had set herself to learn Latin and Greek as a girl, later attending St Anne's College of which she was to become an honorary fellow. The book obviously had the Labour Party in mind, containing as it did a message of both warning and encouragement for all reformist movements. The Spartans failed in their attempt to introduce the "New Times". The implication was that the British

would fail too, unless . . . politics was to make the world a happier place. A short story dedicated to the socialist economist G.D.H. Cole in The Fourth Pig (1936) is very

relevant. We are left with the image

Her finest novel, and perhaps the finest historical novel of the 20th century, The Corn King and the Spring Queen (1931), was about the Labour Party

his constituencies, first King's Norton, Birmingham, and then Kettering, Northamptonshire, where she was admired by the comrades for the brilliance of her intellect and the sincerity of her character. At the same time she was writing the provocative novels of her middle years, one of which, We Have Been Warned (1935) was said by some of Dick's Conservative opponents to have made their task easier rather than harder, on the principle of "Oh that mine enemy would write a book!"

She was a prolific writer of poetry, plays, short stories, stories for children, historical and contemporary, as well as novels despite or because of her busy life, and she always said she felt specially creative when pregnant. She had six children, four boys and childhood of meningitis in the days before antibiotics, a sorrow she ical birth is made clear at the end of We Have Been Warned: the heroine Married to a wealthy and suc- as though a steel spring had sud- become wrongs and wrongs right." 11 January 1999.

of a sandcastle destroyed by the tide. "Yet this was of no consequence to me, for tomorrow I should build another and better castle which would in its turn come to destruction and a levelling out of walls below the salt quick water." The Blood of the Martyrs (1939) is set in Nero's Rome, and the unwritten end of the quotation is meant to haunt us: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church" - the Church being one particular form of goodness that is ready to oppose evil.

The quest for New Times runs through all Naomi Mitchison's books and some kind of Christian Socialism often seems to be the solution; the Christianity, however, usually appears as half-heard echoes from the New Testament story of discipleship, brotherhood and triumph through sacrifice. Her style is nearer to William Morris than Karl Marx. The advance toward New Times is never of many epochs, many individuals. "With time and questioning rights

Her imaginative writing, particularly for children, sometimes carried her into realms of sheer magic or science fiction. The Big House (1950) and Memoirs of a Spacewoman (1962) remind us, if only indirectly, that her father, J.S. Haldane, and her brother J.B.S. Haldane were both outstanding scientists, and there are professors of science

among her gifted children. The mixture of scientific with sociological and even magical invention in her case was a potent one. In the early days of her marriage her friends were mainly academics as well as London writers, artists, doctors and psychiatrists, including several of the Bloomsburys. The Mitchisons' family home was Rivercourt in Chiswick, from which they annually invited their friends to watch the Boat Race

After Dick Mitchison's death (he The aim of her writings and her had become a respected Labour minister and peer, though I never knew Naomi to call herself Lady Mitchison), she continued her writing, diversifying into documentaries and more than one volume of her own memoirs. Honours came her way from four Scottish universities, two Oxford colleges and the French Academy.

Having been brought up by an intensely Conservative mother, it had seemed at first that Naomi was destined for a conventional upperclass life. However, there was soon a chink of light. In the next street to the Haldanes' spacious house and garden in Oxford was the famous Dragon School, a prep school to which select girls were admitted. In her first volume of memoirs, Small Talk (1973), she remembered inspiring tea parties given by the headmaster "Skipper" Lynam: "Presumably the real thing he did was to treat us as equals, something we didn't get at home." Naomi's literary talents first appeared along with buttered toast, anchovy paste and fudge. A lifetime later, in her 90th year,

she was giving a memorable television interview, when at moments she would suddenly shut her eyes and screw up her face (a gesture familiar to her friends) as if in an agonised effort to conjure up and drag out her memories of the past. Next moment she would be all smiles.

**ELIZABETH LONGFORD** 

Naomi Margaret Haldane. writer: born Edinburgh 1 November 1897; CBE 1985; married 1916 Dick uneven progress through the thoughts Mitchison, died 1970; three sons, two daughters, and one son deceased); died Carradale, Argyll



Mitchison in the 1920s: with loose hair and loose robes, like a woman of ancient Greece

#### Otto Koenigsberger

OTTO KOENIGSBERGER, architect, planner and Egyptologist, enjoyed a long and remarkable career that began with work as a government architect in Berlin in the 1930s. It took him eventually to most continents of the world as a teacher, adviser, and consultant on many aspects of physical planning, architecture, design, and technology.

He introduced the concept of "action planning" - communitybased schemes supported by government agencies - into many parts of the Third World. He took part in numerous important UN, governmental and educational missions and workshops that ranged from housing refugees in India to an extensive resettlement project in Tropical architecture Ghana for the Volta Dam.

Born in Berlin in 1908, Koenigsberger studied architecture for five years at the Technical University Berlin under the influential German architect and teacher Professor Hans Poelzig and the key Functionalist architect Bruno Taut Among his contemporaries at the TU were Walter Segal, who was closely associated with self-build housing, and the distinguished architectural historian Julius Posener Both, like Koenigsberger, resided and taught - and in Segal's case practised architecture - in London.



Before going to university Koenigsberger spent a period of practical training as a bricklayer and carpenter. He never forgot the experience. Years later, after Partition. he taught Indian craftsmen bricklaying skills so that they could continue the work in which the departing Islamic builders had excelled.

After obtaining a first class engineering diploma in 1931, he commenced work for the Prussian Government Service on housing and hospitals. Two years later he won the coveted Schinkel Medal and

the first State Prize in Architecture - just as his architect father had done before. Soon however like many another Jewish professional in 1933, he was dismissed from government service by the Nazis.

Koenigsberger then joined Ludwig Borchardt's Swiss Institute for the History of Ancient Egyptian Architecture in Cairo, researching and excavating the Temple of Thotmes III in Thebes. He completed his thesis on the Ancient Egyptian Door for his Doctorate of Engineering, TU Berlin, in 1935, a work which at the time was noticed by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. During a brief period in hospital with TB in Davos, Switzerland, he continued to work on aspects of climatology and numerology in Egyptian architecture before mov-

ing on to India from 1939 to 1951. In India he spent the first nine years at Mysore State serving as Chief Architect and Planner, a post created for him by the Nazim, Mirza Ismail, who had recognised his talent in Europe. Koenigsberger carried out hospital and housing projects as well as the design of Victory Hall, Bangalore, and the Jay-

achamarenda Institute of Technology. His first active involvement with development work began about this time. It was enhanced, after Inde-

first Director of Housing under Nehru's new government. Koenigsberger had the task of developing housing policies and programmes for the huge numbers of refugees flooding into India at that time. Later he became involved in the creation of several new towns including

the new capital of Orissa, Bhuba-

neshwar and Gandhidham in Gujarat. Somewhat later he worked with Nehru in the development of the new capital of Punjab, Chandigarh, which this week celebrates its 50th anniversary. Koenigsberger was approached to advise on the new capital city but declined an opportunity to act as its planner although it seems he had much to do with the eventual choice of British architects Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew for the housing and Le Corbusier to prepare the overall plan and design of the civic buildings. It is said that Koenigsberger locked all three of them up in a guesthouse in Simla for a few days to ensure the new city plan was completed on time.

In 1952, Koenigsberger came to England as adviser to Basildon New Town, a post he assumed to catch up on British planning ideas. For a while he did research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine before turning to his

pendence, by his appointment as the most important work on low-cest housing development, action planning and what had become known throughout the British Empire as "tropical architecture".

He soon discovered the inadequacies of exporting Western building and planning methods to Third World countries. He detected a real need to develop methodologies and a body of knowledge for local professionals. Some work in this field had already been started by Fry and Drew with their books on tropical architecture, and the setting up of a graduate school for tropical architecture at the Architectural Association, London in 1954. Due to pressure of work in West Africa Fry passed on the headship to

Koenigsberger in 1957. The school transferred to University College in 1972 and was renamed the Development Planning Unit (DPU), with Koenisgberger as its Head and UCL's first professor of development planning. Between 1954 and 1978 Koenigsberger with DPU took on many shortterm assignments and missions in Third World countries for the UN, the Overseas Development Administration and various government bodies.

Koenigsberger's classic textbook the Manual of Tropical Housing and

Building was published in 1974 and prepared jointly with colleagues T.G. Ingersoll, A. Mayhew, and S.V. a year in India.

During a busy period "Dr K" - as always ready to offer help and advice to anyone who came with a genuine problem from any part of the world. Indeed, he claimed that it was a Nigerian student who alerted him to the problems of Third World architects training in Britain. The student had complained: "I have studied architecture in the UK and learned about snow loads and local building regulations . . . but this is of no use to me in Nigeria!"

Increasingly Koenigsberger and the DPU became more interested in sociology, economics and politics, and architecture began to take a back seat aithough the technical aspects of housing were always of great interest to him. One of his favourite small projects had been an agency scheme prepared for Pres. ident Nkruma's government for "roof loans" to cover the costs of building sustainable roofs for selfbuild and DIY projects in Ghana.

At the AA in 1986, he took over as caretaker principal, seeking AA Council's approval to bring in John (Michael) Lloyd from Kumasi,

Ghana, as the new head of school, He was also a great asset to the editorial board of the AA Quarterly Szokolay. It stills sells 1,000 copies journal (which I had the privilege of editing from 1968 to 1982), which he had helped to create with the AA he was affectionately known - was President Jane Drew. In 1976, he became the editor-in-chief of Habitat International, a journal devoted to

Third World planning issues. Otto Koenigsberger received many honours during his lifetime, including an emeritus professorship from University College London, and a coveted Dr-Ing from the University of Stuttgart. However, it was the award of the first "Habitat Scroll of Honour" in 1989 from the United Nations (Centre for Human Settlements, UNCHS) that brought him the greatest satisfaction.

**DENNIS SHARP** 

Otto Heinrich Gustav Koenigsberger, architect planner: born Berlin 13 October 1908; Research Fellow, London School of Tropical Diseases 1953-57; Head. Graduate School for Tropical Architecture, Architectural Association, London 1957-1972; Professor of Development Planning and Honorary Research Fellow, University College London 1972-78 (Emeritus); married 1957 Renate Born; died London 3 January 1999.

## Myles Tierney

MYLES TIERNEY was part of that and two colleagues - Ian Stewart. unique breed - the news agency journalist in Africa - who take all the risks for none of the fame.

Every British television viewer has seen pictures produced by Tierney for Associated Press Television News - from Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Eritrea and other troublespots in Africa - and not known it. As with all agency material his was "pulled together" in British newsrooms and packaged with a voice-over by a journalist sitting safely in a studio.

Tierney was 34 and on his latest anonymous mission when he was killed on Sunday in Sierra Leone. He travel spots because, as a colleague

who is in critical condition in a London hospital, and David Guttenfelder, both also of AP - were shot at a checkpoint in Freetown

They were travelling in apparently relatively safe conditions, with a Sierra Leone information ministry convoy aiming to show them what a good job the Nigerian-led Ecomog forces were doing against the rebels. Tierney was sitting in the back seat when a jumpy checkpoint guard emptied his machine gun into the journalists' car, killing him instantly

and lodging a bullet in Stewart's neck. Tierney was always in the worst

said yesterday, he just "had to go". He was energetic and determined: "AP will have to hire 15 people to replace him", said a cameraman. He was also a true colleague, knowing exactly where professional rivalry

ended and solidarity began. Tierney joined AP as a freelance producer in 1996 after several years of working for the German network, ZDF, in Germany. AP sent him to New York to set up a television bureau but he preferred Africa - which he first experienced during the Burundi crisis in 1996 - and moved to Nairobi in 1997.

We met last June in Ziguinchor,

both devising plans for getting into Guinea-Bissau, whose border had been sealed to stop a flood of refugees. The roads were blocked and the mangroves mined, so the only way was by water.

Tierney, with the cameraman Khaled Kazziha, hired a local fisherman to take them and their equipment out to sea and back into Guinea-Bissau. Knowing that, as a newspaper journalist, I only had the means to hire a canoe, not a trawler, Tierney included me in his plan. In the event, I did not go with them judging them to be too conspicuous with their television equipment - and got in (and out again) and I did not. with Tierney throughout central Throughout, Tierney was generous with his knowledge and experience.

Colleagues and friends in Nairobi found it hard to define Myles Tierney. "Some people have said he had it coming because he was so driven. said Jane Standley, BBC Africa correspondent. "That is grossly unfair because we all benefited from the information he managed to get."

"He saved my life at least three times that I know of and there were probably many other times when he just did not think it important to tell me what he had done for my safety." said Alistair Lyne, a South southern Senegal, where we were opted for the personal canoe. They African cameraman who worked

Africa in 1996 and 1997.

Claude Collart, a senior producer at APTN in London, said: "He spoke fluent French and German. We brought him over to Germany to prepare the election coverage there last year. It was a comfortable job and Guinea-Bissau happened in the middle of it. He said, 'Sorry, I have to go.' That is how I remember him, always needing to tell the story."

ALEX DUVAL SMITH

Myles Tierney, journalist: born New York 25 November 1964; died Freetown. Sierra Leone 10



#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

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DEATHS

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Bodmin, Cornwell of No. 1864
MORSE: Nancy on 6

MORSE: Nancy on 9 January 1999, aged 85 years beautiful not in pain. Wife of the 198 Jonathan. Annahe: and Claver. Grandmother of Roses and Emmy, Funeral at Dockington, near Wooler, Northumberland, on Saturday 16 January 2, 12 10001 No flowers please.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages. Deaths, Memorial services. Wedding anniver-Saries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra), OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) are charged at Cio a line. VAT extra.

ROYALENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal presents the Institution of Incor-Porated Engineers Young

> (24-hour ansy Post (

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DAY REVIEW

#### R. Gerallt Jones

ONE OF the most prolific Welsh authors of the post-war period, R. Gerallt Jones excelled both as poet and prosewriter, and more unusually, in both Welsh, his first language, and English, the language of his early schooling. He also took a passionate interest in the affairs of the Third World, especially those of the Indian subcontinent, and of Jamaica, where he spent two years as the first Principal of Mandeville Teachers' College.

He was born, a poor Anglican vicar's son, at Nefyn on the Lleyn in north-west Wales, the rugged peninsula that points towards Ireland. At the age of 10, still a monoglot Welsh-speaker, he was sent by his Anglophile, High Church, High Tory father as a boarder to a school near Shrewsbury and thence to Denstone College, a minor public school for boys, in Staffordshire.

Although his schooldays were happy
- his exceptional intelligence and prowess at cricket ensured that he was not ragged on account of his very un-English background - the experience made him think of Wales, and the wild scenery of Lleyn in particular, as an ideal country. "Wales for me," he wrote, "was a hearth, a home, a wonderful world, hidden, separate from the world of school, a proud possession of my own, a secret room that my English friends knew nothing about."

It was to the sea-girt peninsula that he was to return so often in his writing. sometimes to the rather daunting figure of his father who, of illegitimate birth and Methodist upbringing, had decided that his only child would not be tainted by what he considered to be the hypocrisy

of the Welsh Nonconformist chapel. At the University College of North Wales, Bangor, where he first encountered the harsher realities of Welsh life, R. Gerallt Jones took a degree in English and went on to write an MA thesis on the work of Robert Graves. Also at Bangor, in association with Bedwyr Lewis Jones, a lifelong friend and coreligionist who later became Professor of Welsh at the College, he launched and edited the magazine Yr Arloesur ("The Pioneer"). Brief though its lifespan was it ran for only eight numbers between 1957 and 1960 - the magazine published the work of Gwyn Thomas and Bobi lones, who were to join him in a triumvirate of poets now acknowledged as the most important of their generation.

This interest in literary journalism remained with him for the rest of his life: he was a regular contributor to Welsh periodicals and from 1987 to 1992, again with Redwyr Lewis Jones, he edited the Welsh Academy's influential magazine Toliesin.

The versatility of R. Gerallt Jones as a writer was quite remarkable. He published five volumes of verse in Welsh: Ymysg y Drain ("Among the Nettles", 1959), Cwlwm ("Knot", 1962), Cysgodion ("Shadows", 1972), Dyfal Gerddwyr on T.S. Eliot and T.H. Parry-Williams; his Llandovery College, a public school in Griffith (two sons, one daughter); died

Field", 1981) and Cerddi 1955-89 ("Poems 1955-89", 1989); and one in English, Jamaican Landscape (1969), the fruit of his two years in the Caribbean. A deeply meditative poet, he was able to give the numinous concrete form by the use of striking imagery and the rich idiom of his native district. His command of English, together with his belief that Welsh poetry deserved and needed a wider audience, led him to translate a good deal of it, notably in the substantial anthology Poetry of Wales 1930-70 (1974).

In his prose writing, he tackled contemporary social problems with a special sympathy for the marginalised and dispossessed. His first novel, Y Foel Fator ("The Great Hill", 1960), is about a Welshman who campaigns for the rights of black people in South Africa; its sequel, Nadolig Gwyn ("A White Christmas", 1962), set in Bangor, is more concerned with politics and social justice at home. In Triptych (1977), one of two novels with which he won the Prose Medal at the National Eisteddfod, he dealt with the spiritual disintegration of 20th-century culture as a background to the slow death from cancer of a physical education teacher, while the other, Cafflogion (1979), described a commune in Lleyn after an unnamed catastrophe in a dark, dystopian future. His novel Gwyntyll y Corwynt ("Fanning the Whirlwind", 1978) is about terrorism in Ireland

But perhaps his most celebrated book is Gwared y Gwirion ("The Loss of Innocence", 1966), a collection of seven short stories exploring the innocence of childhood and the burgeoning of conscience in a boy growing up in Lleyn during the Second World War. In 1982 the stories were adapted for television by their author as Joni Jones, one of the most enchanting films made since the advent of S4C, the Welshlanguage television channel, and filmed by the American Stephen Bayly. One episode, "The Evacuees", was the first Welsh-language production to be screened at the London Film Festival.

In his literary criticism R. Gerallt Jones displayed a fundamentally liberal outlook, examining Wales and its culture in a wider context which took in the problems of the Third World, about which he made several television programmes. He published three collections of essays on literary subjects: Yn Frawd i'r Eos Druan ("Brother to the Poor Nightingale", 1961), Ansawdd y Seiliau ("The Quality of the Foundations", 1972) and Seicoleg Cardota ("The Psychology of Begging", 1989). Particularly concerned about the effects of television on literature, and how to use the medium creatively, he grappled with some of the threats to a literate society in much the same way as cultural analysts like Richard Hoggart have done in England.

He also wrote monographs in Welsh



'Wales for me was a hearth, a home, a wonderful world. hidden, a proud possession of my oun, a secret room that my English friends knew nothing about'

published by the University of Wales Press later this year. Among his miscellaneous prose are Jamaican Interlude (1977), an account of his time at Mandeville College, and several books in both Welsh and English about Ynys Enlli, the island off the furthermost tip of Lleyn known in English as Bardsey, to which he was a frequent visitor. As a literary critic, he was always ready to put his gifts at the service of his English-speaking countrymen, publishing numerous reviews and articles in such magazines as Poetry Wales and Planet, in which he wrote engagingly about what was being produced in the Welsh language.

The professional career of R. Gerallt Jones reflected his restless energy and preference to be always "fully stretched". He began as a teacher of English at the Sir Thomas Jones School at Amlwch in Anglesey in 1957 but, four years later, was appointed lecturer in the Education Department at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. After his sojourn in Jamaica, he returned to Wales in 1967 to take up the wardenship of y Maes ("The Relentless Walkers of the full biography of the latter is due to be Carmarthenshire and one of the few Dol-y-bont. Ceredigion 9 January 1999.

in the whole of Wales, and there he remained until 1979.

حكذا من الدعل

After a year spent as a freelance writer, he was appointed Senior Tutor in the Department of Extra-Mural Studies at Aberystwyth. From 1989 until his retirement in 1995 he was Warden of Gregynog Hall, the University of Wales residential study-centre near Newtown in Powys. It was in the last-named post, amid the old mansion's mock-Tudor architecture and splendid park, with access to a fine library and an everchanging company of visiting students and academic staff, that his genial personality, wide interests and independent views the was active on behalf of no political party) were given fullest play. His dark, Venedotian features, broad grin and generous disposition made him a popular Warden, although he sometimes gave the impression that the minutiae of administration held little appeal for him.

Although he once described himself as a reluctant committee man, the list of public bodies of which R. Gerallt Jones was a member is a long one. Principal among them was the Church in Wales. in which he had been brought up and to which he remained loyal throughout his adult life, despite his profound understanding of Nonconformist Wales and the pressures which had led to Disestablishment in 1920. He served as a lay reader in the Church in Wales, editor of its quarterly journal Impact, and a member of its Governing Body. But there was nothing narrow or exclusive about his allegiance to the Anglican Communion. In fact, he was interested in all religions, and I well recall how, during a trip to the Caucasus in the 1970s. he could not be kept from the icons and

rites of the Georgian Orthodox Church. Among other bodies on which he served were the Broadcasting Council for Wales, the Welsh Academy (of which he was chairman), the Welsh Arts Council, the Court of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, the Welsh National Film and Video Archive, and the Board of Governors of S4C. To all these appointments he brought balanced judgement, a dryly witty manner, and a broad spectrum of interests which, though deeply rooted in Wales and the Welsh language, looked out at England, Europe, and the wider world with a mixture of fascination, amusement, sympathy, and sometimes consternation.

Robert Gerallt Hamlet Jones, writer

and educationist: born Nefyn,

Caernarvonshire 11 September 1934;

Principal, Mandeville College,

Jamaica 1965-67; Warden, Llandovery

College 1967-79; Senior Lecturer,

Department of Extra-Mural Studies,

University College of Wales, Aberyst-

wyth 1979-89; Warden, Gregynog Hall

1989-95; married 1962 Susan Lloyd

percentage of the whole.

taxation relief was not enti-

tled to compute its profits in

such a way as to produce an

excess of charges on income

capable of being carried

forward to a subsequent

The Court of Appeal dis-

missed Commercial Union's

appeal against a decision of

Harman J. dismissing its ap-

peal against corporation tax

assessments for the eight

accounting periods in the years

1984 to 1991 and against the

Revenue's refusal to allow its

claim to carry forward losses in

the form of excess charges on

income in respect of the last

Commercial Union had prof-

its including dividends in re-

spect of which tax was payable

under the laws of territories

outside the UK. In each of the

relevant periods Commercial

Union had made payments of

interest constituting charges on

income and received foreign in-

qualifying for double taxation re-

lief ("DTR"). It had purported

to allocate to its foreign income

only so much of the charges on

income as would leave the cor-

poration tax otherwise payable

on that foreign income equal to

The primary issue on the

appeal was whether Commer-

cial Union was entitled to com-

pute its profits in that way,

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carried forward to a subse-

IN A free-association test

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HISTORICAL NOTES

#### A multicultural experiment in Poland

is an example of a highly contested past. There are many such histories, subject to divergent collective memories - Serb and Croat, American and Indian. They serve as symbolic battlegrounds for their participants' moral truth and identity. What makes the conflict between Polish and Jewish memories especially intense is the enormous fact of the Holocaust - an event that took place largely on Polish soil, although it was neither planned

nor executed by Poles. The Holocaust casts its shadow backwards as well as forward, and often the entire history of Polish Jews is read retroactively in its dark light. But history isn't like story; it isn't a straightforward nar-rative, unfolding towards an inevitable finale. Before the terrible destruction, there were centuries of multifarious, vibrant life. Jews started settling in Poland as early as the 11th century; from the 18th century onwards, they comprised 10 or more per cent of Poland's population, which made them that country's largest minority, and a constituency with its own rights, problems and even powers. This was in marked contrast to other European countries, where Jews were never more than a tiny

Indeed, Polish-Jewish history can be seen as a centuries-long experiment in

doubted strains of anti-Semitism in Polish culture, at least some of the tensions were caused by majorityminority antagonisms and conflicts of interest, still so familiar in polyethnic societies today.

In pre-modern times. Poland was often a refuge for Jews escaping from persecution elsewhere. The medieval Polish laws were surprisingly tolerant, granting Jews full religious and legal autonomy. This allowed the growing minority during the Renaissance to develop the splendid spiritual and political institutions which made Poland the centre of Jewish life in Diaspora. For about two centuries, there

was something like a Jewish

parliament in Poland, called

the Council of Four Lands;

there were religious semi-

naries, yeshivas, which drew

students from all over Europe. This golden age did not last. As Poland fell into economic chaos and was partitioned at the end of the 18th century, relations between Poles and Jews deteriorated, sometimes to the point of anti-Semitic violence. But, even during that fraught period of tangled political alliances and mutual resentments, there were moments when Poles and Jews joined forces, as during the series of insurrections mounted against the

colonising Russians. The shtetl - the word is a

Computation of profits

for corporation tax

THE HISTORY of Polish Jews lettre. While there were un- town - was where the multicultural experiment was at its most intimate, and least tested. This was where Poles and Jews traded with each other daily, picked up bits of each other's vocabulary and medicinal lore. This was also where they remained most spiritually separate and

unfamiliar to each other. The shteti changed slowly: but, with the onset of the 20th century, the winds of modernity swept even through these traditional, Orthodox communities. The contradictory interval between the two World Wars, after Poland regained its independence, saw the rise of nationalist, ideological anti-Semitism. But this was also a period when Jewish political and cultural life thrived, when every shtetl had upwards of a dozen Jewish political parties, and when Jewish literature was undergoing a great flowering.

It is impossible to know what would have happened to the shtetl or to Polish Jewry. had their rich and fascinating world not been so abruptly extinguished. However, one cannot understand their history without bringing its two parts into interaction and dialogue with each other. Only from such dialogue can a full picture of the past begin

Eva Hoffman is the author of Shtetl: the history of a small town and an extinguished multiculturalism avant la diminutive of Yiddish shtot, or world' (Vintage, £7.99)

#### GAZETTE

#### BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

#### **DEATHS**

CHILD: On 9 January 1999, peacefully, at Treliske Hospital, Truro, Ena Child (nee Burrill), aged 95 years, of Cardinham, Bodmin. Widow of Commander M.A.G. Child RN. Actress, farmer and raconteur. Funeral service to be held at Glym Valley Crematorium, Bodmin, Cornwall on Friday 15 January 1999 at 10.15am. Floral tributes if desired to Bodmin Funeral Services, Chapel of Rest, Bell Lane, Bodmin, Cornwall, 01208 78300.

MORSE: Nancy, on 9 January 1999, aged 85 years, peacefully, not in pain. Wife of the late David Morse. Mother of Jonathan, Annabel and Oliver. Grandmother of Roses and Emmy, Funeral at Doddington, near Wooler, Northumberland, on Saturday 16 January at 12 noon. No flowers please.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES & DEATHS** (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Craigie Aitchison

painter, 73; Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes, heart surgeon, 75; Mr Clive Betts MP, an Assistant Whip, 49; Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, former prime minister of Queensland, 88; Mr Richard Blackford, composer, 45; Mr Michael Bond, creator of "Paddington Bear", 73; Dr Sydney Brenner, biologist, 72; Sir John Caines, former senior civil servant, 66; Mr Edward Crew, Chief Constable, West Midlands, 53; Mr Tim Flavin, actor, dancer and singer, 40; Mr Stephen Hendry, snooker player, 30; The Right Rev Michael Henley, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, 60; Lord Johnston. a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 57; Sir-Liam McCollum, a Lord Justice of Appeal, Northern Ireland, 66; Mr Ronan Rafferty, golfer, 35; Sir Colin Shepherd, former MP, 61; Mr Bernard Shrimsley, journalist, 68; Mr Robert Stack, actor, 80; Mr Kenneth Turpin, former Vice-Chancellor, Oxford Univ-

**ANNIVERSARIES** 

ersity, 84; The Right Rev

Bishop, Blackburn, 70.

Michael Vickers, Assistant

Births: Jan Josephzoon van Goyen, landscape painter,

1596; Charles Perrault, collector and publisher of fairy tales, 1628; Paul Gavarni (Hippolyte-Guillaume-Sulpice Chevalier), caricaturist, 1804; Jacques-Alfred-Félix Clément, musicologist, 1822; Horatio Alger, clergyman and author of boys' books, 1834; Heinrich Johann Hofmann, pianist and composer, 1842; Wilhelm Wien, physicist, 1864; Charles Wellington Furse, painter, 1868; Prince Arthur Frederick Patrick, of Connaught, 1883; Louis de Rochemont. film producer and director, 1899; Oliver Hilary Samborne Messel, designer, 1905; Lord Willis (Edward Henry "Ted" Willis), playwright, 1918; Albert Lamorisse, film director, 1922.

poet, 1599; Maria Sibylla (Graff) Merian, painter and engraver, 1717; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, 1691; Stephen Collins Foster, song writer, 1864; Louis-Pierre Baltard, architect and engineer, 1874; General Victoriano Huerta, Mexican dictator, 1916; William Frend De Morgan, artist and writer, 1917; Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti, electrical engineer, 1930; Jean-Baptiste Marchand, soldier and explorer, 1934; James Joyce, novelist, 1941; Alfred Edgar Coppard, writer, 1957; Robert Still, composer, 1971; Hubert Horatio Humphrey, US vice-president, 1978.

Deaths: Edmund Spenser,

On this day: William Lyon Mackenzie, Canadian rebel, was arrested in the United States, 1838; the Hudson's Bay Company acquired Vancouver Island, British Columbia, 1848; in Russia, provincial assemblies, known as Zemstvos were formed, 1864; conscription was introduced into Russia, 1874; the Vaudeville Theatre, London, second building, opened, 1891; the Independent Labour Party was formed under Keir Hardie, 1893; foilowing the acquittal of Major Esterhazy, Emile Zola published his open letter "J'accuse" to the French president, 1898; Lee De Forest broadcast an opera from the stage of the Metropolitan, New York, 1910; South African troops occupied Swakopmund in German South-West Africa, 1915; 29,000 people died after a massive earthquake in Central Italy, 1915; a 388-carat diamond was found in a mine at Kimberley, South Africa, 1919; Sir Satyendra Prassano Sinha was the first Indian to become a peer, 1919; a plebiscite in the Saar voted for incorporation into Germany, 1935; in Silesia, the Red Army began a counteroffensive against the Germans, 1945; Britain appointed her first ambassador to Communist China, 1972; the world's largest air-

lished a list of 32 members of the CIA in Paris, 1976; a Boeing 737 aircraft crashed into a bridge on the Potomac river, killing 78 people, 1982.

Today is the Feast Day of St Agrecius, St Berno and St Hilary of Poitiers.

#### **LECTURES**

National Gallery: Mari Griffiths, "Posh Frocks (ii): Lancret, A Lady in a Garden taking Coffee with some Children", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Gareth Williams, " 'Swell': products and projects by 'Inflate' ", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Stuart Currie, "A Quiet River and Stormy Seas: the nature of change in Constable's pictures", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Zelda Cheatle, "The John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award 98 Series (i), Changing Faces: a review of the work of past entrants", 1.10pm. Royal Academy of Arts. London W1: Rachel Whiteread lectures on her recent work, 6.30pm (telephone 0171-300 5665 for tickets).

#### APPOINTMENTS

Mr A. de P. Bueno QC, Mr D.J. Farrer QC, Mr D.R.L. Bodey QC and Miss L.S. Godfrey QC, to be Masters of the Bench of Middle Temple.

#### A TAXPAYER company which WEDNESDAY had made payments of interest constituting charges on LAW REPORT income and received foreign income subject to foreign tax qualifying for double

13 JANUARY 1999

Commercial Union Assurance Co plc v Shaw (HMIT)

Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord

Justice Brooke) 21 December 1998

Graham Aaronson QC and Malcolm Gammie (Linklaters & Paines) for Commercial Union; Ian Glick QC and Jonathan Peacock (Solicitor of Inland Revenue! for the Crown.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson said that Commercial Union submitted that DTR came within the words "other relief from tax" in section 338(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, so that the total profits had to be treated come subject to foreign tax as reduced by DTR. However, section 338(1) did not assist Commercial Union because DTR was not a relief from tax which reduced profits, but was a credit to be allowed against UK tax.

The scheme of the corporation tax legislation required first the ascertainment of income from a particular source and chargeable gains, as reduced by any relief applicable to income from that source or to those gains, then the ascertainment of the total profits by aggregating the income from

the various sources and the gains, as reduced by any relief applicable to those total profits.

Once the amount of the net total profits had been ascertained the corporation tax prima facie chargeable on the total profits could be determined. That corporation tax might in turn be reduced or extinguished by other reliefs which were expressed to apply to that tax: only then was the amount of corporation tax payable ascertained.

Commercial Union further relied on the fact that it was entitled to use its power of allocation under section 797(3) to allocate charges on income in such amounts and to such of its profits as it chose. However, the right to allocate under section 797(3)(a) of the Act existed only for the purposes of the section, which was to set foreign tax against UK tax on the same profits, and Commercial Union had aimed beyond that limited purpose.

Moreover, the exercise of the right to allocate could not affect the calculation of whether in a given accounting period the charges on income paid by Commercial Union exceeded the amount of the profits against which they were deductible. Section 393(9) did not permit the carry forward of charges on income which were less than the amount of Commercial Union's profits against which they were deductible. Consistently with that, section 797(3) did not permit a company to allocate to profits a deduction greater than the amount necessary to reduce those profits to nothing.

KATE O'HANLON.

#### ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Princess Royal presents the Institution of Incorporated Engineers Young

Woman Engineer of the Year Award 1998 at the Royal Society of Arts, London WC2; as President, Royal Yachting Association, attends the Royal Yachting Association Luncheon at the London

International Boat Show, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5; and, as President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, attends the British Apparel Export Awards at the Royal

Lancaster Hotel, London W2.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

port was opened in Dallas,

Texas, US, 1974; the French

newspaper Libération pub-

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

issue of Hustler, however, does lead one to reflect upon a new usage which the word has acquired. The issue does not contain the promised revela-

#### WORDS **CHRISTOPHER** HAWTREE

hello, interj.

tions about Bob Livingstone. but recumbent in 20-yearold photographs is Dr Laura Schlessinger, now a highly

"hello? hello?" to make them feel even more idiotic. It was not long before kindergarten playgrounds echoed to the tapping of dunderheads' brows and the query "hello?" when something had not sunk in. Such tactics have moralistic wireless agony spread to banking circles.

aunt. She is in the habit of silencing callers with stern

advice and then asking,

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## You ask the questions

(Such as: Richard and Judy, do you ever get sick of the sight of each other?)



he television presenter Judy Finnigan, 49, was born in Manchester In 1988 she began presenting This Morning which attracts 2 million viewers daily. Richard Madeley, 42, was born in Essex. He met Judy in 1982 when he joined Granada. They are now married, live in London, and have two children, Jack and Chloe. Judy has twin sons from her first marriage.

Do you talk about work in bed? Jean Gleason, Brent R and J: Sometimes.

When was your last big row? And who offered to make up first? Chrissie Elliot, London W6 J: An absolute classic - what the kids

should be allowed to watch on TV. R: I was definitely at fault, so I was the one who had to apologise first. I'll get my own back, of course.

Do you get sick of the sight of each other, working and living together? Greg Pearman, Dorset

J: We're always asked this - we in fact got to know each other at work, so it's never really seemed odd. We are genuinely happiest when we're together, and when we get home after a show we're able to give each other plenty of space. After 10 years of this it's hard to imagine it any other way. We're very happy.

Can you tell us something, however trivial, that you've never told each other?

Angela Mills, Peterborough R: Yes, I used to be called Squeaky when I was at school. J: That's incredible. So was L And to think that no one ever knew.

Judy, does Richard wear pyjamas

Chris Williamson, Kent No, he sleeps in the buff.

Richard, have you tested out Viagra? Did you like it? Margaret McDowall, Epson R: No. Margaret - and the inference behind your question?

What single thing do you disagree over most? Lewis Ferguson, Brighton J: The volume of the car radio on our drive to work, when I'm trying to read my programme notes.

Who takes the most time in the bathroom in the morning? Caitlin Wilson, Preston

R: I don't think we've ever timed it, but we're both in and out like greased lightening because we get up as late as possible.

Judy, what's the most romantic gesture Richard has ever made? Caroline Baldwin, Sheffield J: One year, Richard made a minia-

Send any questions you may

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ture fountain and put it under the

Christmas tree. Inside were two air-

line tickets to Rome for a long week-

Who has been your best/worst

it only happened this week: Anna

Chancellor, the actress from Four

want to put to professional

The Questions, Features.

0171-293 2182; or e-mail

noon on Friday, 15 January

end. It was a beautiful trip.

Catherine Fielding, York J: It's the same answer to both - and

guest, and why?

TARA PALMER-TOMKINSON

Weddings and a Funeral. She was absolutely lovely, but when we asked her why her character was nicknamed Duckface her answer couldn't have been more explicit – it involved replacing the first consonant of the name with the next one in the alphabet.

Why do you think students watch your show, albeit ironically? Lizzie Foster, Nottingham

R: It's funny, but when we suggest that the huge number of students who watch the show do so ironically. they look baffled. I suppose some do, but our theory is that many are away from home for the first time and This Morning is like a surrogate family a kind of home from home.

What do you miss most about Manchester? Gavin Owen, Stockport

J: I was born and bred there so ob-

viously I miss it the most. Although

I feel very settled in our new house

in London – it's been two-and-a-half

years – I was very homesick at first

and it was quite hard to understand

represented such a huge chunk of my life and I simply felt that I was

putting a part of my life behind me.

R: It's funny, but I've spent exactly

half my life in London and half in the J: Do you want tea or hot chocolate?

NEXT WEEK

North, much of it in Manchester. do miss it, but on the occasions when I've gone back since we moved, it's in fact been oddly comforting to fee instantly so at home there. It's good to know there are two very different cities where I could comfortably live.

Who's your dream interviewee? Is it the same person for both of you? Rob Cooke, Carshalton We'd both dearly love to get the first joint interview with Bill and Hillary

How do you relax?

Jo Millar, Essex J. Reading's my great escape. Novels are my preferred form, although most afternoons I retreat with a pile

R: Reading for me too. I do like burning off adrenalin most afternoons by jumping on to my bike. It's the only form of physical exercise that doesn't bore me rigid.

What's your favourite television programme? Zoe Crace, Camden R and J: The Simpsons.

What do you think you'll be doing in 10 years' time?

Janey Bowers, Newcastle R: The thing I've learnt after 20 years in television is that all plans are useless. Programmes that are right for you and for the audience are a bit like buses without numbers on. You get on in good faith and hope that they go to the right destination. The most successful programmes I've done - This Morning and Eye of the Storm - fell out of a clear blue sky.

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J: I honestly haven't a clue. I've never had a career plan. I just do what I think I'll enjoy and hope the viewers exactly why. I suppose it was that it

> Judy, what's the first thing Richard said to you this morning? Alex Trent, Norbury

#### THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

25: AGE OBSESSION BY LAURA THOMPSON

life was a less subtle and overwrought affair, the facts about age were simple. You were young, then you were middle-aged, then you were old. And that was that. Nowadays, to all intents and purposes, this rigid

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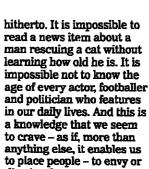
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ONCE UPON a time, when

structure has loosened up. Today you can be blissfully unattached at 30 and a sex symbol at 70. You can be a granny at 32 or a first-time mother at 42, a maths graduate at 15 or a student at 65. My dear, it seems anything goes.

Except, of course, that it is also the subject of great scrutiny. People purport to applaud that an older woman can go about with a young blade; but that this is still so worthy of mention that the age of both will be pruriently dwelt upon, even while everyone is saying how unimportant it is, shows that our ideas have

changed less than we think We are, in fact, obsessed



dismiss them. Of course, our society is obsessed with youth, but also with what every "age" signifies – ie it is fine to be unattached, but not if you are in the second half of your thirties. Regardless of the state of your psyche or your triceps, then you are no longer a sexy singleton but a sad spinster. This sounds as though age obsession applies only to women; yet I lately met a man who disliked admitting to being 29. Perhaps it is

fine to fiddle about with your PlayStation, but not if you are nearly 30. Every little block of time



Act your age: don't be another Dorian Gray

has its own little set of images of what is appropriate and what is not. No wonder people are driven, more and more, to the ultimate idiocy of lying about their age. Who can blame them, when the word "forty" sets off the clanging of collective alarm bells: People once went from

young to middle-aged to old, unfussed whether bralessness was acceptable at

Chat Lines

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ST TO MESS TO LES MESS

COLUMN Francy but the Great State, when

33; now we are allowed to cheat this inexorable process. Balzac would no longer write of a "vieille dame de trente ans": todav. with her Espree Club body and Eve Lom complexion, she'd be his heroine.

But she, in some atavistic

part of herself, doesn't see it as her mirror does. She knows – just as her man does - that fertility is fading and muscle mass is dissipating. She knows that she is playing tricks on age, and age could find her out. Hence the need to know that other people are - or look - older, the fear that other people are – or look – younger. Hence the obsession with youth, itself

free from this obsession. Understandable, perhaps. But how ghastly, really, that age should have become our collective enemy in this way. After all, what is the point in striving to live longer, when every added year is simply something to wish away?

## The day I discovered I am a walking cliché

No! Surely I haven't become that conventional? Louise France is shocked by what the latest official statistics tell her about herself

UNLIKE MANY people - journalists, sportsmen, cabinet minister's ex-wives - I have not taken the last six months off to write my memoirs. However, this week I had the surreal experience of reading my life story in the nation's newspapers. The Office of National Statistics published Britain 1999, its annual snapshot of the ordinary life of the ordinary Briton in this country today. As I read the reports, I was appalled to discover that I can officially be pigeon-holed as Ms Deeply Average.

Twenty years ago, my life as a 31-year-old unmarried, childless woman with a career and a cat (Britain 1999 tells us that for the first time there are a million more cat owners than people with dogs) would have been considered either scandalous or sad. How galling, then, to dis-cover that my lifestyle is now the norm. I'm with the majority of Britons who admit to having tried illegal drugs (put it this way, I did inhale) and reserve churches for sight-seeing weekends in Rome (only one in 10 people regularly attends a religious service).

All the usual areas are covered in the 500-odd page report: how many of us are married, how many of us have children, what we do with our leisure time. As I read through the statistics, I come to the realisation that either I've been accosted by women with clipboards outside train stations many more times than I realise. Or - and admittedly this is the more likely conclusion - this life of mine (which, incidentally, I've always thought pretty original and Out There) is in fact so

middle of the road I'm hurtling down the central reservation. Take, for instance, the statistics on marriage. By 2010, we're told, there will be more unmarried adults than married. Thirty years ago a typical household could be defined as



that I don't have children. As a married couple and their 2.4 children. Today only 25 per Recently as the late Seventies, cent of homes fit this descripthe majority of women had children in their early twenties. tion and my partner and I are more typical. We've been an These days, my girlfriends and item for almost 10 years. I can't I talk about kids but it's in that distant one-day-I-might-go-tospeak for him (that would be far too old-fashioned) but I have the gym sort of way. The closevery intention of loving him est we get to them is walking and cherishing him until death past a branch of Baby Gap. I remain ambivalent. Call me us do part. However, like the fickle but when a friend says majority of my generation, I feel having a child is like being a wedding is best reserved for Spice Girls and celebrity chefs. loved unconditionally for the As far as I'm concerned we're first time in your life, I think: already bound together by a piece of paper. It has Nat West

Joint Mortgage Statement writ-

ten across the top and comes

of the last 20 years is the fact

One of the biggest changes

in the post every month.

"Oh yes. I'll have two of those, please." Then I sit next to a bawling baby on the bus and decide I'd rather swim the Channel in a sleeping bag. It comes as no surprise - but then

why would it. I am after all

average - that one in five women is deciding against having children altogether.

Perhaps I should take solace from these surveys. I need, for instance, no longer be embarrassed by the fact that the nearest thing that I have to a hobby is going to restaurants. It turns out that we're catching up with America where people go out for dinner more than they cook at home. Neither should I hide the fact that my spiritual life - like one in five women in Britain today - is limited to a weekly yoga session.

On the subject of money and work, the report tells us that we've got more disposable income than ever before, but we're careful with it. They even have a name for people like me. I am, apparently, a Hedged Hedonist. Like the majority of women, I work - by 2002 it is predicted working women will outnumber working men.

But, alarmed by the idea that we're all living longer and I may still be going at 97, my savings are swallowed up by pension plans. At the same time I compensate myself for the fact that I work hard by buying incredibly expensive items for the bathroom closet. My grandmother would blanch at the price of the shampoo I buy. But as the adverts say - I'm worth it.

I come to the conclusion that I'm a cliché, as alternative as a loaf of sliced white bread (apart from the fact that in these topsy-turvy times, sliced white is probably considered revolutionary in comparison to the healthy farmhouse gra-

nary I buy each week at Tesco). There is, I realise, only one way for me to restore my street credibility. Before the Millennium I must get married, have a baby, ditch the career and become a housewife.

Who knows. Maybe I will. But there's one exception. The cat stays. Okay?

with age, far more than Legal Notices

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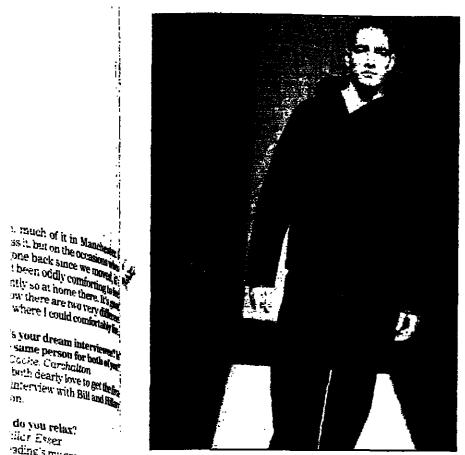
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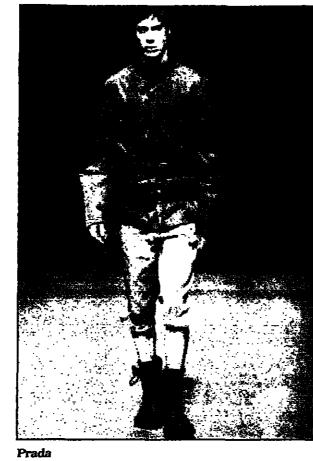
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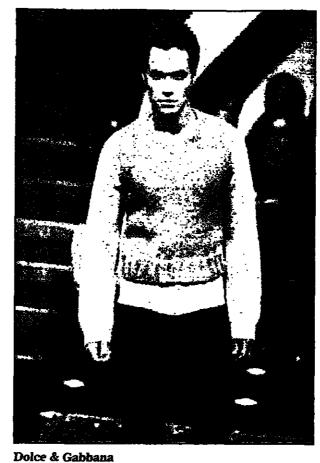
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Vivienne Westwood

There are no trends in menswear. As the Milan shows proved, it's only the details that change. By Melanie Rickey

# Suits you, signore

ilan harbours the most popular menswear labels in the world. Ask any man to name their ultimate label and chances are Prada, Miu Miu, Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana, Armani, Verace and Calvin Klein will be on the list. If not, per aps Jil Sander, Jean Paul Gaultier, Vivienne Weswood, Issey Miyake or John Richmond make thegrade. All show in Milan where, in the last five lays, the most important event in the men's f/shion calendar, the autumn/winter 1999/200 collections - unofficially dubbed Millenniun Men - has been taking place.

Let' get one thing clear. Men's fashion is not about ifg trends. There are no rising or falling hemlins here, no hair or make-up looks, no question of lat or high shoes, just (for the most part) s. What trends there are don't hap pen overnight, rather they evolve gradually season-or-season. As everyone who's anyone told me thoughout the week: it's all in the details, the fabrics, the feel. A suit is a suit, after all. David Bradslaw of Arena – he's also fashion consultant to Prada - explained: "These shows help men make the decision of which black suit to buy. All the fashio forward detailing is in the sportswear, and this elps to sell the suits because, for obvious realons, the suit can't change much." Ex-

cept, of curse, in the details. One of the most prominent fashion "details" of the lastfew seasons has been the Velcro fastening. It ontinues to pop up on everything from tailored suts, shirts and coats to trainers, as well as on spirtswear, where it belongs. For autumn/winer, however, the practical, no-fluffcollecting zip looks set to make a welcome return. Jilbander's padded body-warmer zipped up to a furnel neck (funnel necks on everything is another important detail), as did her shirts. At Issey Miylke the arctic outerwear - big. greeny-grey parkas, huge white Puffas, and combats featured industrial zips. At the hot new American label Richard Edwards, a padded army green body-warmer had zip-on-zip-off arms, while an army green coat had azip-out lining. At Costume National, zips were used to conceal hoods with-

in the collars of tailored suits. A shft in colour palette was also in evidence: from mainly white and grey for the coming summer, to nainly black and grey (yep, it's still there), with dashes of bright colour thrown in for good measure. Tomato red vas given a good airing at Gucci and Costume National in shiny hide jack-

Richmond. Dirty army green and shades of beige in jeans at Gucci which were held up with a rope and cream and navy were also popular across belt and worn with velvet tuxedo jackets. the board. Versus went for baby pink and brown together, and Vivienne Westwood and Jean Paul Gaultier went all out for colour.

This season has proved to be special because of the millennium issue and each designer addressed the "what to wear for the party to end all parties" in their own way. Almost every show included a tuxedo, or modern tuxedo derivative. Gucci's tuxedo pants were glamorous in white or black with red piping along the outside leg, and worn with shiny pony-skin biker-inspired jackets. Issey Miyake's was traditional. Giorgio Armani's was James Bond slick. Cerruti's was for a modern-day Sacha Distel, buttoned low for a laid-back look. Gaultier's appeared to be hand-knitted. Dirk Bikkemberg's was in leather. Dolce & Gabwas aggressive, raunchy and very rock'n' roll.

The common denominator in all of these suits was their shape; unanimously single breasted jackets with flat-front pants, many of which were straight and loose through the leg. And that takes care of the black suits, which has incidentally made the store buyers very happy. Damian Shaw, the contemporary menswear buyer from Liberty, had a few important check-points for his buying strategy - the first, if it's black it sells; the second, leg shape. Too baggy is bad. So is too straight. And they must look good on the bum. Gucci, Bikkembergs, Prada and Costume National scored there.

Vivienne Westwood and Jean Paul Gaultier provided the fun millennial party gear. Westwood showed silver and gold sequin pants tucked into knee-high boots and ring-master jackets with military detailing, yet amongst the high camp there was softly coloured spearmint and chocolate knitwear, moleskin pants and tweed suits. She scored with her tartan kilt-shirt-tie-and-knee-highsock ensembles, which managed to look manly even in raspberry and lilac. Gaultier, too, included his signature kilts, but his showpiece, a sequinembroidered biker jacket with 1999/2000 worked into the arms, was a definite camp winner.

There were plenty of fashion trends that have been creeping up on sartorially motivated men for some time now. Chunky, shrunken-tothe body multi-ply hand knits - many in soft cashmere - looked fantastic in the McQueen line, at Costume National, and especially at Dolce & Gabbana. Biker motifs were also strong. Embroidery, shine and sequins were in evidence across the ets, at Jil Sander in knitwear, and at Prada. Or- board, done best at Dolce & Gabbana on army ange was the strong colour of choice at John T-shirts, on tanks at Gaultier, and on the worn-

Macho furs made a somewhat disturbing impact on the proceedings. Versace went for wolf as coat linings, on collars and trouser edging. Gucci and Gaultier did fur biker jackets. Dolce & Gabbana did full-length mink pants, while Prada showed a fur sports jacket with a face-protecting hood. Trussardi, the worst offender, used beaver, wolf, crocodile and snake.

If only it were fake. These items may never make it into British shops, a fact the Italians are aware of, but not bothered by. Indeed the Engfish attitude to fur is laughed at by foreigners, who think we're prissy. Perhaps someone should send them on an educational trip to a fur farm.

If, come autumn, the average male is rushing out to buy his black suit, more fashion-conscious nt be distracted by sportswear. In fact this has been the biggest single revolution in men's fashion this decade. As Nick Sullivan, the associate editor of Arena, pointed out after the perfectly executed hit-of-the-season Prada show. "Five years ago everyone here [male editors and buyers] would have been wearing suits, now look at them." Indeed, a look at the fashion pack is a good indicator of things as they stand.

There's a black suit worn with Prada red-line sneakers and a big parka with a fur hood over there; a funnel-neck, snow-white jumper, tailored trousers and sneakers over here; a body-warmer with combat pants and boots to my right. Sullivan is sure the sportswear thing is at its height now. "When even the most conservative of designers are doing elements of luxury sportswear it is a sure sign a change will be in the air. But the Italians are best at it. After seeing the Prada show you think, yes, it's got mileage," he says.
Louisa de Paula, the contemporary menswear

buyer for Selfridges, was in agreement. "Menswear now is about uniform dressing. I call it 'Subconscious Millennial Dressing'," she says. "Men have totally changed the way they dress in the last 10 years. Now there are no rules. Function and utility looks have become the norm."

Indeed the Prada show summed up the mood of the collections perfectly. So here are a few tips. Boots are ankie or midcalf in tough, toffeecoloured leather. Tailoring is slim and hard, in grey, desert khaki, army green and black. Car coats and duffels are hooded, with padded elbows. Long padded coats are belted in, and pants are cropped. The Prada Sport line included waterproofs, sneakers, bags and hats - all of which had "must-have" stamped all over them. But you'll have to wait until September to buy them - sorry.

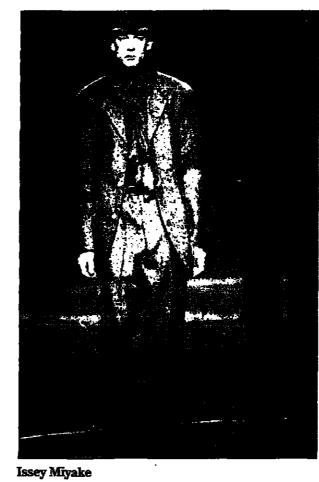


Photographs: Chris Moore



Richard Edwads







Jean Paul Gaultier

What's in a voice? According to Jonathan Rée's new book, as much as your very soul. By Rachel Halliburton

## And the ears have it

dmittedly, it wasn't as mad as the barpsichord that made cats mew different notes by sticking needles up their bottoms. Even so, few thought that the Parisian Jesuit, Louis Bertrand Castel, would succeed in his mission to build a keyboard which played music entirely in colour. Taking as his cue Isaac Newton's theory that the seven main colours of the spectrum could be ranged across the notes of an octave, the mad inventor built a series of instruments whose elaborate multicoloured mechanisms - variously using glass prisms, candles, dyed cloths and lanterns – all proved to be woefully effective at emptying concert-halls. In the end, he realised his ambitions were more likely to be prey to Newton's theory of gravity than to his dreams of colour music and, after his final project came tumbling round his ears in 1757, he turned up his toes

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Help

The point to this story, as Jonathan Rée will tell you, is that people should resist the temptation to draw too many analogies between the visible world and the world of hearing. Although, as he writes, "science tells us... that seeing is simply what happens when light enters our eyes, and hearing when sound enters our ears", the excited attempts of Newton, Castel and others to draw parallels between the two always results in confusion.

In his book, I See a Voice - published next Monday - he reveals that Castel's dilemma, far from being a piece of historical trivia, forms the basis for understanding one of the most controversial linguistic debates to rage over the past three centuries. The question of how to create an effective system of communication between the deaf and the hearing population - and therefore to translate the essentially oral methods of teaching language into visual representations - was a source of frequent debate from the 18th century onwards. Not only did it reveal the prejudices surrounding the voice, but it also provoked a series of challenging and ultimately revealing questions about the nature of language itself.

The fact that "dumb" can still mean stupid is only the tip of an icemurky depths lies the practice of killing children born deaf – in ancient Greece and Rome it was legal to dispose of deaf offspring when they were as old as three - while in Jewish Mosaic law deaf people were not allowed to own property.

Having tempted the reader in with these historical facts. Rée takes a quick side-step to literature, pointing out that while those struck blind - such as Oedious or Samson - are normally dignified, the deaf and dumb are often reduced to victims, like Hans Christian Andersen's little mermaid, or even worse, objects of ridicule. Finally he pulls the reader into the book's heart, the realm of "hardcore" philosophy, where he



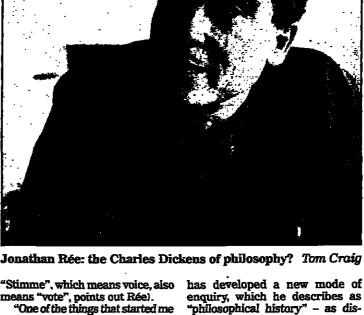
Words and pictures: John Bulwer's 1640s sign language, a 'virgin Philosophie of gesture'

shows - for example - that when certain 18th-century philosophers said the deaf were doomed to remain like animals, leading minds such as Immanuel Kant agreed, saying that since speech was the source of civilisation, the dumb could never attain

the faculty of reason. I See a Voice actively draws the reader to include in metaphysical musings about what it would be like to be deprived of a sense, and starts by analysing the relative prejudices

over the centuries to the importance of eye and the ear. As I entered Rée's which hovers around the tenor flat in this frame of mind, it struck range, is constantly on the brink of me how much you could still pick out laughter, though its speech patwith only your ears to navigate. terns are measured and analytical The Indian music drifting up from the floor below indicates the convenient proximity of a curry-house,

- full of pauses for thought. The voice and its role are the crux of the book. Historically, there have while the clunk of shoes on the been many claims about the voice's bare floorboards and the softly lickpowers: some have put forward the ing flicker of the flames from the coal notion that is a reflection of the soul, fire in the grate give some clues others that it represents our power about the cosy, yet minimalist mode to participate in politics (the German



Jonathan Rée: the Charles Dickens of philosophy? Tom Craig

tinct from a history of philosophy -

which draws philosophy back into

the territory that was initially staked

out by Plato, asking simple ques-

tions about our perceptions of

everyday life and culture through

looking at our changing attitudes

through history. He would like to be-

come for philosophy "what Simon

Schama is for history", though he

recoils slightly when it is suggest-

ed that there could be any similar-

ity between his methods of reigniting a child-like wonder in the

then there is a long, thoughtful

pause... "If it had to be one or

I See a Voice' is published by

HarperCollins on Monday

be deaf than blind".

the other."

means "vote", points out Ree).

"One of the things that started me on the subject was noticing that people find it very difficult to say when a 'voice' is being used metaphorically and when it's being used literally," he explains. "For example, you can talk about the voice of conscience, or you can talk about madness in terms of hearing voices - so it seemed like a rather clever topic to fix on... though it does lead absolutely everywhere."

The resulting eclectic philosophical history is full of gems of historical tales and provocative questions about the interpretations of the senses. One of the most entertaining theories about the voice is put forward by the Renaissance metaphysician Francis Mercury Van Helmont, who announced that the voice was a manifestation of sexual power - and its energy was derived from semen held back from physical emission

"One of the things that I told myself quite early was that I wanted to write philosophy like Charles Dickens - I wanted to have lots of colourful narrative. lots of stories. I didn't feel that I was going outside philosophy in order to find illustrations. It was more 😮 the case that philosophy was already there out in the

If provoked, Rée will admit that he is a man with a mission. He is angry that a lot of 20th-century philosophers have been so anxious to take an academically respectable. scientific approach to philosophy that "they actually turn their back on what makes philosophy deserve to earn an important place in culture. It's terribly unfortunate that most people's idea of the subject is derived from books called A History of Western Philosophy. They sit on the same shelf as the atlas - and it does give you the sense of philosophy as a set of rather abstruse doctrines held dogmatically by

rather boring people." To counter that perception, Rée

## A bit of pointing and shoving

DANCE

CINDERELLA ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET LONDON COLISEUM

THIS CINDERELLA is much the best of Prokofiev's three-act lallet scores, but you would scarcely mow that from English National Balet's production. The music is somewhat raucously played by the ENI Orchestra under Patrick Flynts direction, losing the composer's contrast between sweet and hirsh; but, more important, the chireography seems to me to run directly counter to what Prokofiev intelded

True, Michael Corder has assembled a multiplicity of steps: not wite one to every note, but enough tesatisfy balletomanes who want only to see dancers in hectic movement all the time. But he seems not to lave noticed that Cinderella has a sory, and that the score was written to serve that story. And the sense of form which Corder shows in hisbest works entirely forsakes him here.

So the dancers who represent the four seasons, for instance, cone on and do more or less interchangable duets, with nothing spring-like, ummery, autumnal or wintry about them. Even the characters wheyou would expect to have strong individuality fail to show it: the stepsisters, the fairy godmother, even the heroine. A bit of pointing and shoving for the former, a wispy ienevolence for the latter pair, is thenearest we come to any sense of purpose.

subject and those of Jostein Consequently, the ball-t lacks Gaarder, the author of the teenage both fun and romance. The occasphilosophy hit, Sophie's World. ional bits that aim at comedy don't Before I leave the flat, I ask him get much of a laugh, and a for the whether the extensive philosophical love story, you will have to look expedition he has taken through conhard and use a lot of imagination to cepts of the voice and theories of lanfind anything moving or ripping. guage has changed his childhood Even the charismatic Patrck Armreflections that he would "far rather and as the Prince in the opening cast could not achieve more than a tem-"Td rather be blind," he says, and porary suspension of increbulity.

His Cinderella (four otlers are due to follow) was Lariss Ponomarenko: as smooth and ment a dancer as you would expect from her Petersburg training, but too inpassive facially most of the time to make as much of an impression a she ought. The rest of the castwas never less than proficient, but that v had to do held them one Clarke and Elisabeth Miege as the stepsisters deserve credil for generating at least a sense of iveliness; Christopher Hampson'selegance as the dancing-master/was sabotaged because his rde just doesn't make sense, either ir the implausible lesson he gives or n his in-

appropriate guest spot at tie ball.

David Walker's designs are as dull as the choreography (be thankful for small mercies; at least they woid the tacky extravagance of his Covent Garden Cinderella for Ashbn's version). The tiny tot sitting it front of me with her ballet-critic mama looked bored all evening, and who could blame her?

JOHN PERCIVAL

## In tune with the buzz

THINK OF any Haydn string quartet between Op 0 and Op 77 No 2 and you could have heard it last weekend, not in Esterháza but in Manchester. Quartets of all ages, from the younger end of Chetham's School of Music to the old hands of Quatuor Nostalgique - persuaded out of quartet retirement for the occasion - assembled for a HaydnFest at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM).

Legendary quartets such as the Amadeus and the Aeolian were represented by Siegmund Nissel and Emanuel Hurwitz passing on some of their vast experience in masterclasses. Haydn enthusiasts, many eagerty following scores, mingled with student string players and curious casual concert-goers: instrument makers plied their wares; academics discussed the merits of various editions.

On paper HaydnFest represented the kind of exercise beloved of concert promoters,

#### CLASSICAL

ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC MANCHESTER

more obsessed with numbers than creative planning: musically it was a refreshing and stimulating way to start the new year. It was ambitious, too, in that, unlike the Edinburgh Festival's 1996 series of 46 quartets in 18 concerts, HaydnFest somehow managed to squeeze all 69 quartets into 14 concerts in just three packed days, with performances at morning, noon and night, in tea and coffee concerts, and even in a HoydnSeek children's concert.

Whether or not you go with 68 string quartets or 69, whether you count the string quartet version of Seven Last Words, whether you are taken in by the spurious pieces by

concerts here, you couldn't fail to applaud this opportunity to hear the complete string quartets of the composer who invented the medium as we know it. If, as Goethe once said, "a good quartet is like listening to a stimulating conversation between four intelligent people" then HaydnFest had plenty of sociability. No doubt it also had its party bores, but fortunately

The Brodsky Quartet, all former RNCM students and now celebrating 25 years as a quartet, opened their concert with one of the most dramatic openings in the whole of Haydn's quartets, Op 54 No 2 in C.

I missed them.

But this was perhaps a too civilised conversation, all poised charm at the expense of theatricality. There was a disappointing absence of interplay between the instruments

slipped into the Nachimusik polished finesse rather than any sense of spontaneity dominated the unruly last movement of Op 76 No 4 in B flat, "Sunrise".

Closing the festival, the Endellion Quartet's dialogue was far more riveting, with lively discussion in the opening movement of Op 50 No 6 in D, "Frog", and delightfully witty repartee in the croaking bariolage of the last movement

Candles stuck into old wine bottles gave a welcome air of informality to the late-night student quartets raising bows against the buzz of low laughter and chatter in the bar below the Senior Common Room, Haydn, who first wrote quartets for amateur players to enjoy with guests in their salons, would surely have approved. LYNNE WALKER

The first of three broadcast recitals from HaydnFest is on in the chirrupy quavers of Op BBC Radio 3 tomorrow at 1pm, Hoffstetter, some of which were 33 No 3 in C, "The Bird", and a featuring the Brodsky Quartet

## Skeletons at a funeral

#### THEATRE

THE MEMORY OF WATER VAUDEVILLE, LONDON

FUNERALS ARE handy functions for a dramatist, providing the perfect excuse for yanking back into tense proximity people who are still fizzing with unresolved conflicts from a shared and much disputed past. Pop a corpse in a coffin and out of the cupboard a skeleton is bound to tumble.

Or rather, a whole slew of skeletons, in Shelagh Stephenson's often wickedly funny and moving play The Memory of Water, in which three sisters return to their Yorkshire childhood home for the interment of their mother. Tempers aren't improved by the snowy weather or, for one of them, by the recurrent appearance of the mother's ghost.

A riotously well-observed look at the social stresses of bereavement, the play is also a shrewd meditation on the subjective, competitive and selfpreserving nature of memory that so often distorts and tailors recollections to fit in with a personal agenda or sense of grievance. It was a big hit three years ago on its first airing at

Hampstead. Someone has had the commercially smart idea of reviving Terry Johnson's production with starrier principals and now, after a successful regional tour, it arrives in the West End.



Samantha Bond (left) and Margot Leicester in Shelagh Stephenson's "The Memory of Water' Nigel Norrington

two of the actresses are already lodged in the public mind as fictional daughters: Samantha Bond from Amy's View and Julia Sawalha from Ab Fab. Bond brings a fine, caustic superciliousness and an air of moments of unguarded heartache to the role of Mary, the posh, high-flying doctor and victim of her own success who harbours a boyfriend who won't cuous and manipulatively leave his ME-stricken wife, and hypochondriacal Catherine, and

The casting is cunning in that a painful void left by the baby she was forced to give up at the age of 14. Bond is perhaps a bit generalised and over-actressy, her pukka tones rarely lapsing, as they would, into Mary's original northern accent in

> emotional intensity. But she is a credible irritant to her siblings - Sawalha's druggy, promis

Teresa, played by Alison Sead-man in magnificent form

A frantic health food reak who pops "completely organic" nerve pills Steadman's Tresa puts on one of the best displays of mountingly drunk behaviour I have ever seen. As unstoppable as the whisky bottle she is gripping, she gives vent to home truthsof wildly variable accuracy. Then, heaving her slumped heal up from the bed-spread, she demands, are spread, she demands: "How

could you do his to me?" Johnson's nighty entertaining productin keeps skilful control of thetone, which has to encompasseverything from whooping, dug-fuelled high jinks, as whensorting mother's things out tuns into a giddy fashion pardle, to Mary's troubled meetings with Margot Leicester's reenant spirit.

The production can't disguise the fact hat the dramatic current flows with a fluctuating strength, or that the ghost is a bit de trop, or hat some of the themes sit a little lumpily on the proceedings. ut Stephenson has a sure istinct for the quirky side of te (one character arrives having spent six hours trapped in a train with "a woman from Carlisle who runs a puppet heatre for the deaf"), and is cetainly a talent

AUL TAYLOR

A version of this review appeared in late editions of yesterday's pape

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Brad Fraser has written a play about an openly gay politician. Fortunately, Martin Yesterday still has things to hide. By Paul Taylor

# A bit of pointing and Fraser has written a play about. You don't pay the fruit. Martin, an appreciably of The most eg

hen it was about a playwright's creative per-announced a sonality from listening to the way he couple of years himself speaks. This is certainly true ago that Brad of Fraser, who has a deep, burly voice Fraser, the which (a bit like Gore Vidal's) is in award-winning piquant contrast to the knowing cult Canadian dramatist, had signed camp of what is being said. His a contract with Disney, one's first speech rhythms have a similar thought was: what on earth is he flouncy curtness to the exchanges going to write for them: 101 Biserin the plays, as when, in Poor Super uals? In plays such as Unidentified Man, a married character objects to Human Remains and the True his estranged gay artist lover Nature of Love, and Poor Super exhibiting nude paintings of him, and Man. Fraser has situated his dark. tries to assert his rights. laconically witty art on the slippery "I inspired them," he pleads. boundaries between diverse sexual "You don't pay the fruit when you orientations and identities. Whether do a still life." comes the succinctly charting the travails of a transsexual denied the operation s/he so desperately craves because s'he's dying of Aids in Poor Super Man, or He has situated his inserting a submissive gay man with a cleft palate into The Ugly

dark, laconically Man this hilarious lust-in-dust witty art on the B-movie makeover of Middleton's slippery boundaries Changeling), Fraser has never been one to compromise, or to stint on between diverse graphic depictions of naked coupling. The Disney news was rather like sexual orientations hearing that Mark Ravenhill had been hired to present Blue Peter. and identities So when I rang him in Canada to talk about the English première of Martin resterday - his latest stage

stinging reply, with its pointed pun

Fraser's wit is much more good humoured than that, though. Confessing that he has always been imaginatively drawn to outsiders, he reveals that his first teenage effort as a playwright was the helpfully entitled Two Pariahs at a Bus-stop Late at Night: "I mean, don't you almost feel like you've seen it."

Though the dramas to date have had an implicitly political edge, the title character in Fraser's new piece, whispers the adoring gay character. Martin Yesterday, is the first career politician to feature in his work. The That won't be necessary," replies the butch, disfigured bisexual, none play follows the Prozac-propped too cryptically) does not conceive of fortunes of Matt, the young married beauty in any fun-for-all-the-family, man who was forced out of the closet in Poor Super Man. Now a successful comic strip artist, he that you can learn an awful lot

alderman. The most egregious gay politician in modern drama is the virulent real-life homosexual homophobe Roy Cohn, to whom Tony Kushner gave mythic dimensions in Angels in America, and who made just about the toughest figure imaginable for gay people to acknowledge as one of their own. Martin Yesterday is, by contrast, openly gay and HIV-positive and, therefore, potentially prime paragon material.

As Matt's female business partner remarks: "I read an article that says people are actually more likely to vote for an out gay politician than a straight one, because they think the out person has more integrity."

But Martin Yesterday seems to have emerged from the closet to make more room for the unsavoury secrets he needs to bundle back in there. The instinct to help fellow homosexuals, admirable in his public life, becomes perverted in his private life to the kind of charity that creates mutual exploitation and heartless dependency.

Martin's taste, moreover, is for very young men such as Rex, the pan-sexual hustler with the coke problem who pays for his bed in Martin's apartment by letting him play abusive "daddy" fantasies with him.

"I'm not afraid to say what I see, whether it's pleasant or not," comments Fraser, justifying his depiction of Martin, whose selfcompromised political career he views as an illustration of how "we lack leadership with true integrity. Nobody seems to live up to their own expectations of themselves." A strip-cartoon artist on the side

raser uses comic-book characters as symbols and metaphors, as when Super Man's concealed alien status provided, in that eponymous play, a sardonic parallel for the central character's marooned feeling of living a lie in the midst of strangers.

In Martin Yesterday, the parallel is more overtly political. Matt invents the Deceptive Elf ("this spy from embarks on a relationship with Quebec who's trying to find out how



Brad Fraser: I'm not afraid to say what I see, whether it's pleasant or not'

English Canada really feels about Quebeckers"). A drama about partnerships, commitment and separation is played against a background of cultural separatism in a nation that is itself like an unhappy, disputatious couple. Rows at the drawingboard in Matt's office raise the whole contentious issue of how far, if at all, oppressed minorities are interchangeable as metaphors of

perhaps hasn't had its due in his work is that of women. Fraser's female characters tend to be underwritten, saddled with partner problems that are the palest shadow of those experienced by the men and given to looking at the gay community with a peevish mixture of envy and puzzled resentment. I'm pleased to hear, though, that

each other. One "minority" that Fraser has resurrected Violet, gay Matt's slow-on-the-uptake wife from Poor Super Man, in a forthcoming play, Snoke in the Fridge, a piece he refers to, with a tantalising laugh, as "about a group of young people on the fringes of the sex industry who have a great time in a haunted house". And what has happened to poor divorced Violet? "She's become

From her previous CV, this would eem about as likely as her becoming the Dalai Lama. But maybe the highly talented Fraser has now graduated to the point where he can start to use women characters to test those sexual boundaries.

'Martin Yesterday' runs at the Royal Exchange in Manchester from 13 Jan to 6 Feb (0161-833 9833)

## Lorca, Dali, Buñuel: their naughtiness lives on

What connects Brecht with Spanish surrealism? Hayley Carmichael, of course. By David Benedict

UNTIL VERY recently, Hayley Carmichael was a fairly well kept cret. Not any more. Her hilarious, Foloundly touching performance as an upper-class girl falling for a extremely good at innocence - and, like that Just get on with it." chauffeur, in Kathryn Hunter's Almeida/ The Right Size production of Mr Puntila and His Man Matti, has changed all that.

"It's about a mad scientist who is

Something tells you that the

Beauty-and-the-Beast sort of way.

Peter Hall remarks in his Diaries

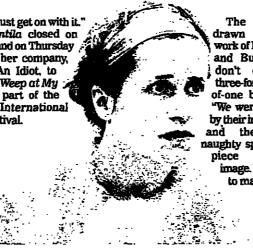
Even as she natters before a performance, you see her giving herself up to ideas. Her expression keeps changing as emotions register across her freshly scrubbed face and thoughts race behind her eyes. Her brow furrows with puzzlement, then suddenly her expression changes, bewilderment whisked after the first scene and said to anaway by laughter. It all sounds very "actorish", but that's the last word you would use to describe her.

Although she's around 30, she

rare gift that true comic performers Told By An Idiot, to have being able to stretch time. Her perform I Weep at My characters hit upon an idea and her directness and physical economy London International draw you in as she works through a particular moment in a way that

looks utterly spontaneous. Not that she's a bundle of confidence. "The other night I came off other actor, 'Oh, they really don't want me to come back on stage.' And he said. 'Why ever not?' You realise that personal paranoia is so not inlooks extraordinarily young - she's teresting. You can't indulge yourself

helped by a Judi Dench-like crack in her voice. Best of all, she has the rare significant. Piano as part of the Mime Festival.



drawn from the work of Lorca, Dali and Bunuel, but don't expect a three-for-the-priceof-one bio-drama We were inspired by their imagination

and their, well, naughty spirit. It's a piece in their

thing that we understood, so as to open it up to an audience. Things about friendship, loving someone who doesn't love you...

Told By An Idiot is a strikingly successful threesome. They met at Middlesex College, where John Wright was a teacher and suggested working together on a tiny part of One Hundred Years of Solitude. That became On the Verge of Exploding and, a year later, Wright joined them to do it at Edinburgh. Gradually, with the help of their manager Nick Sweeting, they began to tour further afield. They formalised Cordelia to Kathryn Hunter's King

The show is about them but also about somethis ad hoc working arrangement, producing the daft and delightful You Haven't Embraced Me Yet, although they don't work as a permanent ensemble. They prefer sometimes to work apart with other companies, to keep their own collaborations fresh.

In the past they've been mistakenly bracketed as "physical theatre" Carmichael and Paul Hunter were but their plans include a middlestudents. A few years later, Hunter scale project with Northern Stage, and Bivi Bandele-Thomas is writing them a play - a first, as all their previous work has been devised. Carmichael thrives on being fed by the input of others and she has been working in all manner of places. Prior to Mr Puntila, she played

Lear at the Leicester Haymarket and the Young Vic, but has done very little text-based work. However, she will do Marivaux's The Dispute with Neil Bartlett in a co-production between the Lyric Hammersmith and

Her rising profile slightly unnerves her. "It's strange how you are perceived to have 'made it'. Because people see your photo somewhere they say, 'Oh, you're doing well', or 'You've finally made it'. That's all very nice but I think Told By An Idiot got somewhere from the very beginning." Hope lights up her face.
"We made a show about love and pain and all the rest of it, and that's what we'd wanted to do and we're

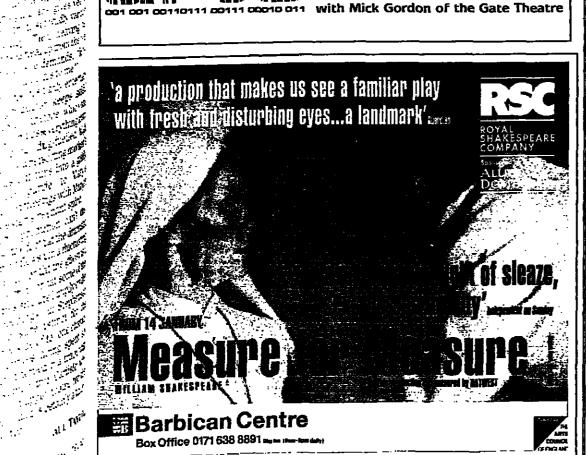
'I Weep at My Piano' is at BAC from Thursday (0171-223 2223)

#### NEXT WEEK

#### The Shape of Arts to Come



Our series on the men and women set Our series on the men and women set to become movers and shakers in the 21st century continues next Monday 001 001 00110111 00111 00010 011 with Mick Gordon of the Gate Theatre



#### ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

placement, but A Special Offer really takes the biscuit and poses with it. Where most firms that help out small productions have to content themselves with a token mention on an A4 programme-sheet, Sharps Bedrooms gets top billing in the rising theatre designers Alice Power's and Alice Purcell's contribution to the London International Mime Festival: an entire "Buckingham" suite has been built in the Young Vic studio, and Sharps' logo is dis-

IVE HEARD of product

played on a help desk. But the bedding people must have a sense of humour, as, in dissecting the consumerist heart of modern coupledom, A Special Offer macks the sterile aesthetic of the ideal home and the fitted interior. A prematurely middle-aged husband and wife (Mick Barnfather and Lisa Gornick), run through precisely observed daily routines with no sense of progression but a continual air of self-congratulation. They go to bed, wake up, make the bed, and immediately wind down

again, droning on about gardening, commuting and other couples. Their relationship is as sexless as their red satin shiny duvet. Insistent pan-piped

Muzak (courtesy of Nigel Piper, a John Hegley acolyte); customer announcements - ("Mr Fisher has been separated from his wife"); and the intrusions of a operasinging shop assistant (Rebecca Gale) - threaten to expose the relationship as a bizarre sales ploy. But even when the wigs are off, the behaviour remains resolutely display-oriented.

There are some angsty confessionals in which each partner outlines his or her frustrations and fears for their individuality, but banality gets the upper hand. "I feel I want to say something about world peace, but I'm not sure what it is," the wife says, adding, after a beat: "I'm not looking forward to the menopause."

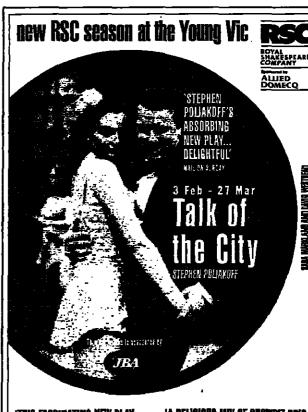
At times it feels as though the scenario is too two-dimensional to provide wall-to-wall interest. But bursts of surreal activity

(animal impersonations, a perfect spoof Black Magic ad) keep your eyes fixed on Barnfather and Gornick - a great bad couple. It's an impertinent reminder that there's more to life than making a bed and lying in it.

Threesome, by Laurence Pritchard, also risks being as boring as the dead-end lives of its protagonists, but is so wryly scripted and so beautifully performed in Ken McClymont's Old Red Lion production that it leaves you hooked. Easy and Scruff (James

Thornton and Rob Jarvis) are two flat-sharing drifters bound together by their druggy clubbing days, but tension starts mounting when it emerges that Scruff has been associating with Easy's ex, Ruth (Raquel Cassidy), and with vicious dealers at the notorious club where Easy was once a DJ. The shifting balances of power are ably charted. Well worth a look

Threesome', Old Red Lion, EC1 (0171-837 7816). to 30 Jan; 'A Special Offer', Young Vic, London, SE1 (0171-928 6363)



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## It's all downhill from here

Paying off your mortgage early leaves you free to spend more on enjoying life. By Nic Cicutti

he idea of paying our mortgages off early is one that most of us have entertained. And why not? It offers the opportunity of doing more exciting things with the cash. And, at last, there are growing signs that home buyers are recognising this fact. Increasing numbers of borrowers are asking for shorter mortgage terms than ever before.

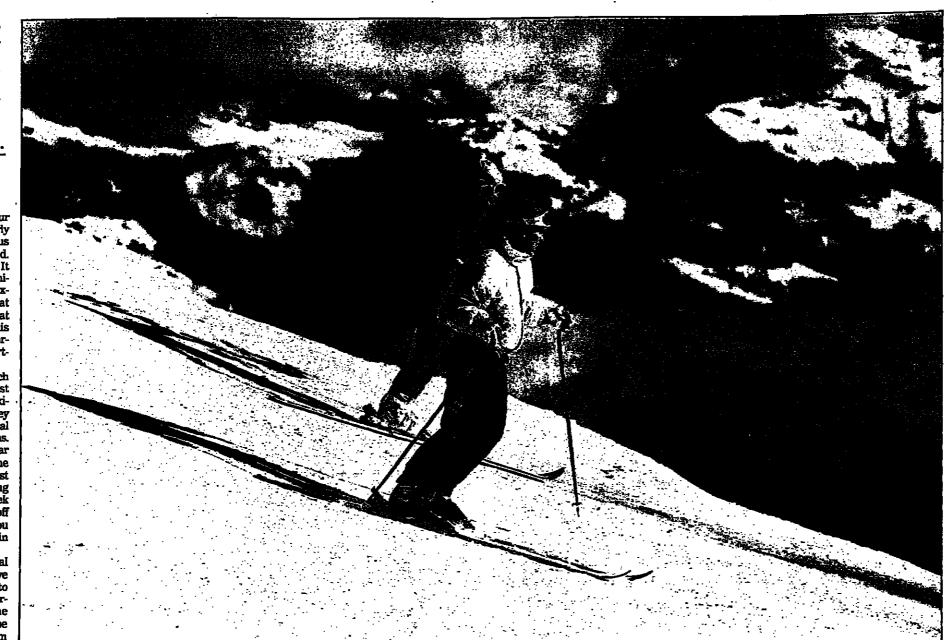
They still want a good deal - such as an attractive fixed rate. But, just as importantly, they want the flexibility to decide exactly how long they will pay this mortgage for. An ideal loan would combine the two options.

The good news is that it is far easier to shorten the life of a home loan than you think. While it may cost a little more in the short run, setting aside an extra pound or two a week can lop months, perhaps years, off a 25-year mortgage term; saving you thousands of pounds of interest in the process.

The reason for these potential savings are simple. Whenever we take out a home loan, we agree to pay it off at a certain rate of interest. Over a typical 25-year term, the total amount of interest that must be repaid can be triple the sum originally borrowed.

At variable rates of 7.7 per cent, monthly payments are £592.57 and the interest payable over 25 years is £113,025. Simply by paying an extra £10 a month the interest saved would be £6,641. The repayment period itself would be reduced to 23 years and eight months.

Paying an extra £30 a month towards the same mortgage would bring interest savings of £14,657. reducing its term to 21 years and 10 months. An additional payment of £50 cuts the term to 20 years and four months, saving £20,983 in interest.



Take an £80,000 repayment loan. Why spend your most active years being frugal? By paying your mortgage over a shorter period, you could be saving money and having fun

concept among borrowers is that of early mortgage repayment as an investment in itself. Paying a mortgage more quickly is equivalent to earning the same rate of interest as the amount actually charged on the loan itself - tax free.

So, repaying an 8 per cent variable rate loan becomes the equivalent of earning 10.56 per cent gross for lower-rate taxpayers, or 11.2 for those on a higher marginal rate.

may have made sizeable contribufree lump sum will be enough to pay off the loan at retirement. They assume that, having made the decision several years ago, they purpose, not just to repay the loan. have to live with it today.

However, with annuity rates falling as they have been, people would be better off using all their Many borrowers may have taken poses. As for endowments, it still much faster.

In fact, one relatively unexplored out a 25-year endowment policy or makes sense to keep on paying into one until it matures. Instead of tions into a pension, on the linking it to the new mortgage, assumption that the 25 per cent tax- borrowers can choose a traditional capital and interest option. The policy will still produce a large lump sum - but now it can be used for any

> As interest rates fall, so does the monthly cost of a mortgage. In turn, this means that, if we could afford to keep payments at the same rate pension fund for retirement pur- as before, the loan is repaid that

advantage of falling long-term interest rates - fixed mortgages are now lower than they have been for three years.

Many of the most flexible loans are offered by lenders who calculate interest payable on a daily basis rather than once a year, which means that any payments are instantly credited to your mortgage account. Among the best flexible loan providers in the market are Standard Life Bank, Legal & Gen-

It also makes sense to take eral, First Active and Virgin One. The last two offer full banking facilities as part of the mortgage, meaning that you can treat the loan

itself as a bank account. FirstMortgage, the telephonebased home loan provider, has another solution. The company has a 5.75 per cent fixed-rate deal. The difference is that it can be selected for any period between five and 15 years. In effect, you choose the period you want to pay the loan back over. This loan is not quite so flexi- in the coupon on this page

ble as the others, but it makes up for it by its cheap rates.

There is a price to pay for ditching a loan part-way through.
Redemption penalties are 1 per cent for each year of the mortgage term, with 5 per cent payable at any time in the last five years. So, a 10year repayment period starts with a 10 per cent redemption charge. falling to 5 per cent in year five and thereafter.

However, the penalty is on the amount still owed, if you have paid back a huge chunk of the loan aiready, the redemption will be cor-

respondingly smaller. Some people assume that early redemption penalties will negate the benefits of making even part-repayments of a fixed loan. But this need not be so.

ACC

AD

erational !

For example, a fixed-rate mortgage of 5.75 per cent for the last five years of a mortgage has a redemption penalty of 5 per cent of the

Relatively unexplored is the concept of . early repayment as

an investment in itself

amount paid. If, say, someone wanted to part repay a £10,000 lump sum after three years, they would incur a penalty of £500. However, the interest saved would more than compensate for that loss.

Over the remaining two-year period at 5.75 per cent, the saving .. would be £1,150. On a 10-year mortgage, the cost of the same part -repayment, also after three years, would be £700. But the interest saved in the remaining seven years would be £4,025.

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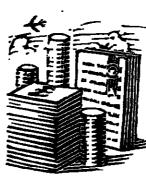
## A terrible mistake

I HAVE discovered something about computer screens. If you stare at them long enough, they become three-dimensional, like those interactive posters that look like a bunch of scribbles and are really a

floating marijuana leaf. Of course, it helps if your eyes are out of focus, and what with the welling-up when I think of my boyfriend Olivier, and the sleepless nights, mine are in that condition most of the time

Olivier has refused to take my calls for a week now, and I couldn't be more miserable. I've even started having nightmares. One minute I'm sound asleep, the next I'm hurtling. through a multi-coloured vortex like something out of Star Trek. When I crash to the ground, I can see I'm in a landscape dreamt up by someone on LSD: overly bright flowers, weird insects... But the only sound is a quiet sobbing coming from behind a small, emerald hill.

When I go to see what's making the noise, I find a



### THE

with guilt and crying. At work, I have thrown

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white rabbit with its back to me. There's an elaborate old-fashioned pocket watch on the ground in front of it, and between sobs it pats it half-heartedly and gulps. "How could she do this to me?" And then it turns to look at me, and it's Olivier, with one long ear sticking up and the other flopping pathetically over his right eye. Then I wake up, racked

myself into as many deals as

possible, in a largely vain effort to distract myself. It's just as well I don't have to work in euros, in the circumstances. The FX boys indistinguishable from the rabble at the last place may have been having a high old time of it since euro Monday", but Findlay's still twiddling his thumbs waiting for someone to be more adventurous with

the new currency.

Anyway, in between frenzies of manic deal-doing. I have successfully avoided talking to Jaap. After all, what am I supposed to say to him? "Hello, I'm afraid I don't remember anything about it, but did we have a mad night of passion after the Chrstmas lunch? Only if so, you left your watch on my bedside table." Exactly;

you can see my problem. So I felt more than a little uncomfortable when he strolled over yesterday and flopped down into the spare chair next to me.

"You look as if you need cheering up," he said gently. I muttered that it'd sort itself out, and he looked as if wasn't going to pry.

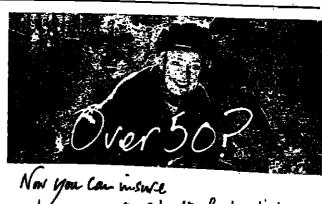
"Life would be a lot easier without other people, wouldn't it?" he continued. "I am in terrible trouble with my sister. She's furious that I've lost the watch she bought me when I left to come to London."

I felt sick. Of all the topics in all the world, why did he have to start on this one?

I was desperately trying to think of a way of changing the subject when Jaap said, "I remember that at the Christmas lunch the strap kept coming undone, so I took it off and put it on the table. I called the restaurant the next day, but they couldn't find it."

I froze. A flash of memory. Being last to leave the table. Seeing Jaap's watch lying there and picking it up and tucking it into my bag. The bag I turned out drunkenly on my bedside table as I hunted for my contact-lens case that night. No more mystery. Only,

how do I explain this to Jaap? And how do I convince Olivier?



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#### APPOINTMENTS DIARY

## Hungry for success

've never been grossly overweight, but at 19 I joined a Weight Watchers meeting when a friend wanted to lose several stone and needed my support. I liked the fact that I was allowed to eat everyday food rather than having to adopt a fad diet or take diet pills, and I soon reached my target weight. At the time I thought Weight Watchers was just a local group, in our cosy village hall. Three years later I attended an interview for an interesting-sounding job. It was only once I got to the office that I learnt it was Weight Watchers. While I was watching the hustle and bustle of marketing and accounts, the penny finally dropped and I realised that this was an international company.

I became secretary to Linda, who was then the trainee manager responsible for 600 leaders. Before, I'd worked for the Civil Service and was used to addressing colleagues as Mr this and Mrs that. But this is a friendly, laid-back company where everyone is known by their first name, so it took a while to learn who was who within the firm. Linda is American and says what she thinks, which I found a little frightening at first, yet it gave me confidence to see everything she had achieved for herself. We worked as a team for four or five years, but when she got promoted I didn't feel ready to join her and take on what I

saw as a high profile, go-getting job. Being a bit of a stick-in-the-mud I was not keen to change. But after 18 months I had enough confidence to join Linda in her new position as vice-chairman and found my new job wasn't so different. The big change was that I had to learn to deal with far more senior people: organising a conference for up to 50 managers could prove

stressful, but it was also rewarding.
Obviously when you work for Weight Watchers you get an awareness of what you are eating, but everyone here is a different size. We are employed for our skills, not our figures - it's not the office of skinny women I'd envisaged. Admittedly the nature of our work means we think about food most of the time, which can make us hungry. If people see me eating something fattening at a social gathering they often tease me, or will confess to feeling guilty about eating in front of me - it's interesting how many people feel guilt about food. At this time of year, after the Christmas

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'After the Christmas binge, we know that the phones will soon start ringing non-stop'

bingeing, we know that the phones will soon start ringing non-stop: even I recently went back to Weight Watchers meetings, having put on rather more weight than I wanted to. We don't drag people in from the street; it's up to individuals whether they want to lose weight or not, but like the Government we do want to encourage healthy eating. Mind you, it's not all lettuce leaves and tomatoes; if you want biscuits you can have

them, because there's always tomorrow. But we do try to discourage people from automatically reaching for the biscuit tin after an argument, for example, advising them to opt for a nice, comforting bubble

cause they are so upset about their weight. portant first step and I enjoy giving them the same boat as them. Even Linda used to be a member of a group before becoming a leader; I've seen her "before" photographs, in which she's hard to recognise.

Although I am sure that there are male Weight Watchers out there too, it's quite a female-orientated company full of women who in many cases have been housewives themselves, and understand the pressures on women running a home. It's bath instead. I've talked to many people on the phone who have lost self-confidence be
one thing being a high-profile dieter like someone who dieter being a high-profile dieter like someone who dieter like someone who dieter like the phone who have lost self-confidence beone thing being a high-profile dieter like someone who didn't like change. I have

her, but it's a different ball game for a nor-Yet having the courage to phone is an im- mal person who has to provide large meals for her children and husband. As a encouragement by explaining that each of mother myself, I don't think I would have the Weight Watchers leaders was once in been able to do this job without Linda's understanding; with three teenage daughters of her own she reassures me about my 12-year-old son. We are close: if I've got problems I will confide in her, and every Christmas my family visits hers.

I think that both Linda and my colleagues have a lot to do with the fact that I've stayed here for so long. Although I feel secure in my job I don't get bored, as we are constantly developing new projects. As

## At his convenience

IT TOOK me three days to work up the nerve to go to the bathroom in Oscar Katz's penthouse - three days with crossed legs, gratefully rushing off on errands in the outside world and now I'm kicking myself because I could have had a whole three days' more dining out. But finally I worked up the trust in my new boss (I was convinced, rightly, that there wouldn't be a lock on the inside), in the middle of a long afternoon on the phone ringing round every tabloid and men's magazine hack in the country, inviting them to the PussyKatz Club's Pussy of the Year competition (well, almost). Well, it was either that or bust laughing. And now I have to pop back in every hour or so, whether or not I need the loo, just to check.

Oscar Katz's bathroom: my mum would have kittens if she knew. I've got used to the bedroom, with its purple satin sheets, in-bedhead stereo and purple satin tenting. because one of my duties is to check the bedside minibar and restock it with quarter-bottles of champagne but the bathroom is something else. It's a monument to everything to do with water and nothing to do with washing. Well, there's a bidet - goldplated - in the corner, but it seems to contain mostly white satin G-strings. Otherwise, it's a place for splashing around while looking at yourself.
For a start, the whole place is lined

with mirrors, and when I say the whole place. I mean that you can actually look up your own skirt as you cross the floor. I find it disconcerting seeing myself on the loo, but each to his own taste, I guess. The bath isn't so much a bath as a private bordello, being big enough for six, with not just jet streams, but a wave machine. The shower isn't so much a shower as a car wash. Oscar has a body-length whirling loofah thing that goes on at the flick of a switch and scrapes off those dead skin cells while you lean against it. I haven't worked out where he keeps his unguents, but he must have loads stashed behind one of the mirrors, for no one in the history of the world has ever smelled so chemical. They'd label him a national disaster if he were in North America.

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THE TEMP

This is the weirdest job I ve ever done. I work from 2pm to 10pm every day, following Oscar around, getting drinks for people, calling the chauffeur, sending out for sushi and timetabling his assignations. I quickly worked out that my own morals were totally safe with the old roue, as I'm obviously not his type. I haven't got white permed hair piled on my head, frosted pink lipstick and a black leather bra, for a start, and my name isn't Trixie. Vixen or Lulu – and I passed 19 some time ago. I guess there comes a time in every woman's life when she realises she is past it for certain activities; I never realised my moment would come at 23.

The Pussy of the Year competition is in fact The Search for London's Loveliest Lap-dancer. My job over the next two weeks is to send out invites to everyone Oscar can think of, chase up a few former game show hosts and disc jockeys to pad the celebrity list, and laugh at Oscar's jokes.

Oh, and try hard to tell Trixie (no calls) from Trina (put straight through, leaves different-coloured hairs in sink from those on her head).

So I emerged from the bathroom. trying hard to keep a straight face and not cause offence, though the breast-shaped door handle had nearly tipped me over the edge. "Well," said Oscar from the pink inflatable Marilyn Monroe lips chair, "I was wondering if you were related to the Queen and never went at all." "Oh, no," I said, finding myself

suddenly forced to sneeze, "I go." Oscar lit a 6-in-long cigar. "Oh, by the way," he said, "Sorry about the trolleys in the footbath, but yer can't machine-wash them, you see." He smiled proudly. "Ladies say I've got the best bum in London. Remind me to show you some time."

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stage-play for the screen, the result still trades

in gestures and caricature and is further hindered

Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously

weighted turn from the rejuvenated Caine

push it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC

Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea

Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon

Mayfair, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden

Town. Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble

Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End,

Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Rilzy Cinema,

Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin

Aronofsky's pungent debut idles in a kind of ante-

room between maths lesson and art class, as Sean

Gullette's New York number-cruncher ponders a

numerical code behind the holy Hebrew texts, and

Asigner flourishes overrun the screen. The

rhythm runs on a staccato beat - the tone is self-

consciously lugubrious. What sustains  $\pi$  is the

pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its

ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature"

mantra, and the louche, too-cool-for-school

demeanour. It all adds up. West End: Curzon Soho,

Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the

Homage or sacrilege? Photocopy or experiment?

Whichever camp you fall into, Gus Vant Sant's

Fulham Road

Director: Darren Aronofsky

Green, Screen on the Hill

Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche

Director: Gus Van Sant

**PSYCHO** (15)

Starring: Sean Gullette, Mark Margolis

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MUZAN (I)

End: Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

#### **NEW FILMS**

LITTLE VOICE (15) shot-by-shot Psycho reconstruction is a bizarre Director: Mark Herman undertaking. Here, the original's high-contrast Starring: Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine black-and-white is dumped in favour of Edward Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country Hopperish colour. Hefty Vince Vaughn stands in sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) cannibalises her for twitchy Anthony Perkins, Anne Heche for dead dad's record collection, perfects strident Janet Leigh, and Julianne Moore for Vera Miles. Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations, then falls in with Michael Caine's impresario; a

In the meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic low-rent, Bermuda-shirted huckster with one a pitch-perfect bit of movie mimicry which has rheumy eye on the big time. Brenda Blethyn a definite curiosity value without ever quite trundles around in a hip-hugging mini-skirt as LV's adding up to much more besides. File this one mum, Ewan McGregor pops up as a simple under "White Elephants". West End: Empire pigeon-breeder, and seedy seaside cartoonery runs Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble as a garish visual backdrop. Where Mark Herman's last film, Brassed Off, was a whole and solid Arch Odeon Swiss Cottuge, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin fint, Little Voice proves altogether more bitty Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

spot of carpentry in remoulding Jim Cartwright's THE SIEGE (15) Director: Edward Zwick

Starring: Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis by tentative pacing. Bracing black comedy. A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, The Siege winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. The nominal hook (Muslim terrorist bombing in New York) gets draped with all manner of garbled goings-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's gung-ho army renegade. Zwick desperately attempts to touch all the bases, but even the speedy, kinetic editing can't gloss over his film's messy marriage of perfunctory liberalism and noisy chest-beating. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington. Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. UC! Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG)

Director: Howard Hawks Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall That immortal "You know how to whistle, don't you?" line aside, To Have and Have Not has come to be more highly regarded for its behindthe-scenes history than its narrative content. Conceived as a Casablanca cash-in, and irreverently adapted from what Hawks reckoned to be Hemingway's worst novel, this wartime drama is credited with getting Bogart (then an unhappily married megastar) together with 19-year-old Bacall. The taut, proficient plot has Bogart's Martinique-based skipper sandwiched between the Vichy government and the Free French resistance. Hawks directs with a pointed, easy grace. West End: Curzon Soho

Xan Brooks

#### RELEASE GENERAL

THE ACID HOUSE (18)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road Virgin Haymarket, Warner OUT OF SIGHT (15) Village West End

ANTZ (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as worker-ant "Z". West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Samirah Makhmalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Dennis Quaid). West End: Odeon Kensington, Naderi sisters. Part docu-drama, part rites-ofpassage fable, this is a luminous and extraordinary Chelseo missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, Renoir

BASE: PIG IN THE CITY (U) The rollow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of waifs. Comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleus

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. West End: Barbican Screen

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS See The Independent Recommends, above.

West End: ABC Swiss Centre

ELIZABETH (15)

Shighar Kapur's follow-up to Bondit Queen is the stery of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But opportunities for fun are largely neglected in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Ponton Street, Curzon Minema, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brothertype trouble. This is a big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller, with a topdrawer cast including Jon Voight and Gabriel Byrne. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road. Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops through 19thcentury California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odean Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. Warner Village West End

See The Independent Recommends, above. West

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Panion Street, Clapham Picture House, Virgin Haymarket

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

head in Gray's thrilling drama. West End: Warner Village West End

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The Purent Trop catches Disney reheating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarmer into a spry tale starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to reunite their parents (Natasha Richardson. Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic Dial M for Murder is actually not at all bad. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heiress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: Warner Village West End

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virain, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hitand-miss affair. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

In this scattergun satire of middle-class mores, François Ozon takes pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is savage and funny one moment, indulgent the next. West End-Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG) A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, Insurrection hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags and wrapped up in more comball romance than we're used to. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Caronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritey Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15) Ben Stiller. Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in this latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romance of the kind that drifts out of Holly wood on a regular basis. West End: ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15) Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chappie who lights out to a cod-Impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon, Haymarkei, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Acid House (18) A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh. Debut director Paul McGuigan turns this into a bit of a triumph. adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales. A cracker, all told.

The Dream Life of Angels (18) Erick Zonea's remarkable début draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Elodic Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

In Disney's animated tale (above), a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from certain death in combat. This movie has it all, and is one of the most visually innovative films that Disney has ever made.

Out of Sight (15)

Steven Soderbergh's tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off previous Elmore Leonard adaptations, and boasts in Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney the swooniest einematic pairing of the year.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

ANTHONY OUINN AND XAN BROOKS

Insurrection

6.20pm, 8.50pm

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Copenhagen (Cottesioe) Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 27 Jan

The Tempest (Barbican Theatre) David Calder is a magnificently querulous and authoritative Prospero in an imaginative RSC staging by Adrian Noble. In rep to 4 Mar

Kafka's Dick (Piccadilly Theatre) Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this uproarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in this revival by Peter Hall (below), To 26 Feb

Just Not Fair (Birmingham

Rep) Moving account by Jim Robinson of 18 years' wrongful imprisonment of the Bridgewater Four. Will be performed in rep with Wilde's equivalent prison testament, De-Profundis. To 30 Jan

A Month in

(Swan Theatre, Stratford) Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel. adapts Turgenev's proto-Chekhovian comedy. To 20 Feb

the Country

A conjunction of two great artists and cultures.

PAUL TAYLOR

#### THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon (Royal Academy)

"Life? Or Theatre?" Salomon's life in pictures. Her 405 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's haste before Auschwitz - an expressionistic operetta in

three colours. To 17 Jan **Neurotic Realism** 

(Saatchi Gallery) First instalment of Charles Saatchi's new, madeup art movement, which, by a happy coincidence. consists entirely of works in his own collection.

Chris Ofili

(Whitworth Gallery, Manchester) This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots. Afros and black icons, and

Edward Burne-Jones

incorporating elephant dung. To 24 Jan

(Birmingham Museum & Art Gailery) This centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world (above). To 17 Jan

**Grinling Gibbons** 

(Victoria & Albert Museum) The best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver, who made intricacy and the abundance of nature his trademark.

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) Baker Street The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come

What Dreams 6.05pm, 8.35pm ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) ↔ Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm. 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm. 8.30pm My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm.

6pm, 8.25pm ARC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) & Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm.

6.10pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 1.05pm. 3,30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE 0870-902 0402) → Leicester Square. Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm. Texas

4,10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 1.05pm. 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403)

⊕ Leicester Square. Buffalo 66 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Eel 1.15pm. 8.40pm line sea 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Governess 1.45pm, 4.05pm, Governess 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm La Vie Revee des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT (0870-902 0414) & Tottenham Road Enemy of The 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 5.25pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 3.55pm, 9,25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

BARRICAN SCREEN Dancing at 8.40pm (0171-638 8891) Moorgate Dancing
Lughnasa 6.15pm, 8.40
Little Voice 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) O Sioane Square. Little Voice 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE Common Enemy of the State 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Little Voice 2.30pm. 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm My Name is Joe 1.30pm, 7.15pm 1pm, 3pm,

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) Green Park Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) & Hyde Park Corner Elizabeth 2pm, 6.30pm On Connait la Chanson 4.15pm,

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) 
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 To Have and Have Not 2.30pm. 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm

(0171-703 4968) O Elephant & Castle Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6,20pm. EMPTRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) ⊕ Leicester Square. The Prince of Egypt

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm. GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) + Notting Hill Sate # (Pi) 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm (+ Short: Drlp

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN 0870-907 0718) Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Enemy of the State 3pm, 6.10pm,

Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Psycho 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.15pm Star Trek: 1pm. 3.30pm,

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) Othering Cross Angel Dust 6.30pm, 8.50pm No Skin Off My Ass 5pm, 7pm METRO

(0171-734 1506) © Piccadilly. Circus The Apple (Sib) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm The Boys 4.15pm, 8.45pm Fire 2pm, 6.30pm NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) → Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705-050007) ⊕ Camden Town 8.10pm Little Voice 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Psycho 12noon. 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm The Siege 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) O Piccadilly. Circus What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON OBFON KENSINGTON
(08705-05007) ← High Street
Kensington Enemy of the
State 12noon, 3pm, 6.05pm,
9.10pm Little Voice 1.45pm,
4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm
The Mask of Zorro
2.55cm 6.05cm 2.15cm The Mask of Zorro 2.55pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm Psycho 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Slege 12.40pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705-050007) ← Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus. The Siege 12.55pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

**ODEON MARBLE ARCH** (08705-050007) O Marble Arch Enemy of the State 12noon, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9pm Little Voice 11.45am, 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Psycho 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 1.25pm, 8.30pm, 9.35pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm The Siege 12.35pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (08705-050007) O Leicester Square, Elizabeth Detector Square. Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Ronin 2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm There's Something About Mary 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE Swiss the 5.35pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 8.45pm Re Mask of Zorto 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm, 3pm Psycho 12.50pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Slege 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insur-rection 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

8.30pm ODEON WEST END (08705-050007) ⊕ Leicester Square. Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm,

(0171-494 4153) Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Everest 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rex: Back To the Cretaceous 1pm. 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm PHOENIX CINEMA 

Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm,

**PEPSI IMAX CINEMA** 

(0990-888990) Open Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm The Truman Show 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

6.30pm, 8.45pm

(0171-837 8402) & Russell Square. The Apple (Sib) 1 pm. 2.55pm, 4.50pm. 6.45pm. 8.45pm Little Voice 2.15pm. 4.25pm, 6.35pm. 9pm CINEMA ACTON

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) The O Brixton The Acid House 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Enemy of the State 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm Fire 2.15pm Little Voice 12.55pm, 3.50pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm π (Pi) 1pm, 3.10pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm (+ Short: The Albaross)

Star Trek: Insurrection 2,30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) © Baker Street Left Luggage 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Little Voice 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

(0171-226 3520) Θ Angel /Highbury And Islington π (Pi) 3.05pm, 5.05pm, 7.05pm, 9.05pm SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) O Belsize P

(Pi) 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm,

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

**UCI WHITELEYS** (0990-888990) Parent Trap 4.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm Psycho 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm Rush Hour 7.20pm, 9.40pm The Siege 4.20pm,

6.50pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.10pm, 6.40pm. VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) Sloane Sq./South Kensington. Enemy of the State 2.15pm.
5.15pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight
2.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Siege
12.45pm.
3.30pm, 6.15pm,
9pm What Dreams May

Come 12.30pm, 3pm, 6.15pm,

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-907 0711) 

South
Kensington/Sloane Square The
Acid House 9pm Enemy of
the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm,
6pm, 9.10pm Little Voice
12.40pm, 2.45pm, 5.10pm,
7.20pm, 9.30pm The Mask
of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm,
6.10pm, 9.10pm The Prince
of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm,
4.25pm, 6.40pm Psycho 2pm,
4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm. 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm,

3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm VIRGIN HAYMARKET Circus/Leicester Square The Acid House 2.40pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Psycho 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm.

**VIRGIN TROCADERO** (0870-907 0716) → Piccadilly. Circus/Leicester Square Antz .12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.05pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 2.50pm. 5.40pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm. 9.20pm Star 7pm, Insurrection 1pm, 3,40pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm The 6.40pm, 9.15pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm What Dreams May Come 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) ♦ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus. The Acid House 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm. 9.30pm Blade 1pm. 3.40pm The Exercist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) `9pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm. 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm The Negotiator 11.40am. 2.40pm, 5.40pm, A Perfect Murder 8.40pm 1,10pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, Rush Hour 1.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm 6.50pm, 9.20pm What Dreams May Come 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm,

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE 6.20pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zor-ro 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.55pm The Prince of Egypt 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm Psycho 4.40pm 7.10pm. 9.40pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 3.10pm, 5.35pm, 7.50pm, 10.10pm The Siege 2pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.40pm,

What Dreams May Come 6.40pm,

ODEON (08705 050007) & High Bar-net Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Psycho 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 3pm The Stare 1 pm, 3.45pm, 5pm 8.15pm Star Trek: insurrection 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

BECKENHAM ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Enemy of the State 1.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Psycho 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm,

4рт, 6.20рт, 8.45рт BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bedeyheath Le Bossu 12,40pm 7pm Enemy of the State 12,20pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 6.55pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm Little Volce 12.10pm, .30pm, 4.50pm, 7.05pm, .20pm The Mask of Zorro 1pm, 3.50 pm, 6.40 pm, 9.25 pm The Parent Trap 1.30 pm, 4.10 pm The Prince of Egypt 3.20 pm, Psycho 1.20 pm, 3.40 pm, 5 pm, 7.20 pm, 9.40 pm Rush Hour 10 pm The Siege 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection

9.45pm BROMLEY

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Brom-ley North/Bromley South Enemy of the State 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Little Voice 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm. 9pm The Siege 2.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, CATFORD

12noon, 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm, 8.55pm,

ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford, The Siege 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm CROYDON CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: Croydon West/East Little Volce

4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm + Whoosh Zakham 8,45pm SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West

Croydon Enemy of the State 5.30pm, 8.15pm Psycho 5.45pm, 8.20pm Star Treic Insurrection 6pm, 8.30pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Enemy of the State 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Little Volce 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm. The Mask of Zorro 3.20pm, 6.20pm. 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 2.20pm, 4.50pm Psycho 3.40pm, 6.10pm,

8.50pm Rush Hour 7.20pm, 9.50pm The Siege 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, What Dreams May Come 7.05pm. 9.40pm

DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) O Dagenham Heathway Enemy of the State 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm, 9.20pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm The Parent Trap 3.15pm The Prince of Egypt 3.40pm, 6pm Psycho 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm The Siege 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9 p m Star Insurrection 2.40pm, 5.15pm. 7.30pm, 9.50pm What Dreams May Come 6.10pm, 8.40pm

FAI ING

VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Siege 2.30pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556)

O Edgware Enemy of the State 5.20 pm. 8.15 pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate phone for times Kuch Kuch Hota Hai phone for times Mehndi phone for times Naseeb phone for times The Parent Trap 2.40pm The Prince of Egypt 2.45pm. 5.40pm Wajood phone for times Zakhm phone for times

**EDMONTON LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990)** O Tottenham Hale Antz 4,40pm. 7,30pm Blade 9,50pm Enemy of the State 2.20pm, 3pm, or the State 2.20pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm, 9.20pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 8pm Little Voice 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 2.30pm, 5.25pm Psycho 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm Rush Hour 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 10.05pm 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm 7.15pm. 9.45pm Rush Hour 4.55pm. 7.20pm, 10.05pm The Siege 3.50pm. 6.30pm, 9.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.55pm. 4.25pm. 6.20pm, 7pm, 8.55pm. 9.35pm What Dreams May Come 8.25pm

FELTHAM

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Antz 1pm, 3pm, 5pm Doli Sajake Rakhna 6.05pm Enemy of the State 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 7pm, 9.10pm, 9.50pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 3.15pm, 9.50pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 0.00pm, 0.10pm, 0.00pm 9.40pm Kudrat 2.40pm, 9.30pm 9.40pm Kudrat 2.40pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Naseeb 11.25am, 6.20pm The Parent Trap 11.20am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm Psycho 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 1.0 pm Rush Hour 8pm 10pm Rush Hour 8pm. 10.15pm The Slege 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 12noon, 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3.55pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 8.50pm, 9.35pm Wajood 11.35am, 6.25pm What Dreams May Come 6.55pm, 9.30pm Zakhm 2.55pm, 9.45pm

NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) © East Finchley/Finchley Central Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Little Volce 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 4.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 4pm Psycho 1.55pm, 4.25pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm Rush Hour 7pm, 9.10pm The Stege 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.35pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 6.10pm, 8.40pm

FINCHLEY ROAD
WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604
3059) & Finchley Road Enemy
of the State 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, or the State 1.30pm, 49m, 6.43pm, 9.40pm Little Voice 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Mask of Zorro 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 10pm Psycho 1.50pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Rush Hour 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.40pm, 10.20pm 5.10pm. 7.40pm, 10.20pm The Siege 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrec-tion 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come 2pm, 4.50pm

**GOLDERS GREEN** ABC (0181-455 1724) + Golders Green Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

7.30pm, 10.10pm

GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Enemy of the State 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm Little Voice 5.05pm. 7.10pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm

HAMPSTEAD ABC (0870-9020413) ↔ Belsize Park Enemy of the State 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Psycho 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm. 5.40pm, 8.25pm

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) O Harrow on the Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Doll Sajake Rakhna 8.45pm Fire 7pm Zakhm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 SURREY QUAYS 9009) & Harrow on the Hill UCI (0990 888990) & Surrey Quays 9009) O Harrow on the Hill Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3pm. 6pm. 9pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm The Mask of Zorro 11.25am, 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 2pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm Psycho 1.40pm, 4.10pm. 6.40pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm The Siege 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May Come

HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705 050007) O Holloway Road Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 3.05pm, 5:10pm, 5:50pm, 8pm, 8:35pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6:20pm, 8:50pm The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 5pm, 7:55pm The Prince of Egypt 1.05pm, 2.55pm, 4:45pm, 6:35pm Psycho 1.05pm, 4:35pm, 5pm, 5pm, Psycho 1.05pm,

3.25pm, 6pm, 9pm Rush Hour 8.35pm The Slege 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.45pm. 6.20pm, 8.50pm

ODEON (08705 050007) → Gants Hill Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 1.50pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Psycho 12.40pm, 3.20pm. 5.55pm, 8.35pm The Siege 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

THE SPACE ARTS CENTRE (0171-515 2453) DLR: Mudchute King and Country 8pm

KILBURN TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) & Kilburn Little Voice 6.30pm, 8.45pm (+ Short: Kings of Slam with 8.45pm performance only)

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston ,Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm Psycho 2.25pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.25pm, 6pm. 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007) O Highgate Enemy of the State 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm The Siege 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.05pm. 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Little Voice 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Psycho 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm Rush Hour 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm The Slege 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Enemy of the State 4.55pm, 8pm The Siege 5.10pm 8.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.10pm,

ABC (0870 9020401) Putney Bridge Enemy of the State 2.15pm. 5.15pm, 8.15pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection

ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O Richmond Enemy of the State 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

The Siege 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/O Richmond The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Out Of Sight 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm Psycho 2.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm,

ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm Psycho 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 6.10pm,

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 UDUUUT) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 050007) BR: Romford Ene 5.30pm, 8.15pm Little Voice 12.05pm, 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm The Mask 8.15pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour .50pm The Siege 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm. 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams May Come 8.20pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Psycho 5.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm, 8,40pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm. 8.45pm Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.25pm. 6.50pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 2.25pm, 4.40pm Psycho 1.30pm, 474 July 1997 April 19

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/O Stratford East Enemy of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm Little Volce 1.35pm, 3.45pm. 6.15pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm.

9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415)

R: Streatham HIII Antz 6.40pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.25pm Psycho 2.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON (08705 050007) & Brixton. 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm Rush Hour 6.35pm, 8.35pm The Siege 3.30pm. 6pm, m Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.50pm,

Enemy of the State 4pm, 6.50pm, 8.45pm, 9.50pm Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas Tue 6.20pm. 8.45pm Little Voice 3.20pm. 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 3.05pm, 6pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 3.30pm, 7.15pm The Prince of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.40pm Psycho 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 10pm The Siege 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm (not Tue), 7.05pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 9.20pm

**SUTTON** UCI 6 (0990-888990) O Morden Enemy of the State 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm Little Voice 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.20pm Ine Mask of 20rd 5.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap 2.30pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm Psycho 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm The Siege 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.55pm.

CORONET (0181-888 2519)

O Turnpike Lane Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Psycho 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek; Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

UXBRIDGE ODEON (08705 050007) O Uxbridge The Siege 1.40pm, 5.45pm. 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) & Waltham-stow Central Enemy of the State 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 8.10pm The Siege 2pm, 5pm, 8pm Star Trek: Insurrection

1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Little Voice 3.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Star Trek: Insurrection 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eitham Psycho 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WIMBLEDON ODEON (08705 050007) South Wimbledon Aniz 12.15pm O South Wimbledon Antz 12.15pm Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon The Parent Trap 12noon The Prince of Egypt 12.25pm Psycho 2.45pm, 6pm. 8.30pm The Stege 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-989 3463) South Woodford Enemy of the State 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8pm Psycho 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm,

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) O Turnpike Lane Jooth Bole Kauwa Kate 2pm Pardeshi Babu 8.45pm Wajood 5,30pm

**WOOLWICH** CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Psycho 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

#### **CINEMA**

LONDON SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) Sitcom (18) 6.30pm, 8.30pm

930 3647) No Skin Off My Ass (18) 5pm, 7pm Angel Dust (15) 6.30pm, 8.50pm

THE LUX CINEMA Hoxton Squa N1 (0171-684 0201) The Big Lebowski (18) 6.45pm Lock. Stock & Two

Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232) To Have and Have Not (PG) 2.30pm, 6.30pm Convoy (NC) 6.15pm Classics of the NFB of Canada Special Event (NC) 7.30pm The Maltese Falcon (PG) 8.30pm 54: Special Preview: Discoland

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2 (0181-444 6789) Little loice (15) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,

(NC) 8.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Love is the Devil (18) 1pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (18) 3.30pm Rounders (15) 6.15pm Henry Fool (18)

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Butterfly Kiss (18) 7 pm + 1 Want You 8.50pm

**WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE** High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Little

Voice (15) 5pm, 9pm Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 7pm

DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-602503) A Fistful of Dynamite (18) x (Pi) (15) 4.30pm, 8.50pm The Mighty (PG) 6.45pm BRISTOL

MATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Insomnia (18) 6pm, 8.25pm Little Voice (15) 6.05pm Lou Reed: Rock and Roll Heart (NC) 8.35pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Character (15) 2.30pm, 8pm The Eel (18) 7.30pm

CHICHESTER NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Out of Sight (15) 1.15pm Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 4.30pm

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) High Society (U) 1pm His Girl Friday (U) 3pm Sitcom (18) 5pm. 9.20pm The Fountainhead

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Insomnia (18) 6pm. 8.15pm My Name is Joe (15) 6.15pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) The Boys (18) 5.45pm The

Governess (15) 8.15pm

#### THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. 

— Seats at all prices ) — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed. [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

I ALARMS & EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Fe-licity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) → Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

● AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salierl in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama, Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616) BR/O Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

ANNIE Rags to riches story of the eatingly optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/O Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm. [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

DART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wynd-ham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) ← Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy

tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ◆ Tott

Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins. ● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ♣ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-

D BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) O Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thur 8pm. Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday atinees. 160 mins.

) CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072) So Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£35, 165 mins.

• CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ↔ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm. [4][7] 3pm. £16 £36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins.

• THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus. W1 (0171-369 1747) Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £6-£25, Thur mats - all seats £10.

OR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Hamoline Street, Wo (0171-416 6022) Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm,

£10-£32.50, 150 mins. ● FAME THE MUSICAL High-octane stage version of thre TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince o Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ⊕ Leic So/Picc Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, £15-

FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timberlake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ. In rep tonight 8pm, ends 27 Feb, £12-£30.

● GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film, Cambridge Earlham Screet, WC2 (0171-494 5080) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7,30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christo

pher Cazenove and Susannah York n Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. 3pm. [7] 4pm. £8.50-£29.50. 165

) AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller, Garrick Charling Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Φ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairytales. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm.

• THE INVENTION OF LOVE TOM Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, author of The Shropshire Lad Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) O Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-

£32.50. • JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in John Dowie's alternative Christ-mas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) @ Picc Çirc. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm, [1] 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

) THE MEMORY OF WATER ALison Steadman and Julie Sawalha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral. Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/C Charing X. Mon-Sat Bpm, [5][7] 3pm, £8-£27.50.

) LES MISERABLES Musical CHELTENHAM dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mas-EVERYMAN THEATRE Aladdin erpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) ₱ Picc Circ. Mori-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195 mins. • MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. The-atre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. day 2pm & 7pm, continuing, £8-

[4][7] 3pm, £5.75-£35. 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodumit, St. Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) → Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] -2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£24,50. 135

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical, Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400) @ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

PRENT Musical inspired by La Bome and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) ⊕ Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7,30pm. [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160

DOLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up. with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller in rep today 2pm & 7.15pm, ● LYTTELTON: Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle And Dick Terry Johnson's

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE:

new play looks at the Carry On actors and recreates Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Babs Windsor on tage. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan 120 mins O COTTESLOE: Copenhagen New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. In rep today

2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 27 Jan. 145

mins. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesioe: £12-£18. NT2000: £4. concs £3. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/O Waterloo. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THE PIT: Bad Weather Robert Holman's examination of the breakdown in family relationships. In rep

tonight 7.15pm. The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, £C2 (0171-638 8891). BR/O Barbi-) SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER HIT '70s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia, London Pallactium Ar gyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) O Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,

• THE SNOWMAN Award-winning production of Raymond Briggs's con-temporary classic Sadler's Wells At The Peacock Portugal Street. WC2 (0171-863 8222) & Holborn/Temple. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 30 Jan. £7.50-£32.50.

**STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road. SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/+ Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins.

) THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Be-

linda Lang stars. Duchess Cather-ine Street. WC2 (0171-494 5075) ◆ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm, ends 23 Jan, £15-£27,50, 140 mins. THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines

ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ← Lelc Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins.

production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) ← Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm. £15-£35, 160 mins.

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 60001 € Holborn. Mon-Sat 7,45pm. [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50. 120 mins.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susain Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238) O Covent Garden/Holborn Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

#### **THEATRE** BEYOND THE WEST END

LONDON ARTS THEATRE Krapp's Last Tape Edward Petherbridge performs Samuel Beckett's melancholic piece. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Fri & Sat 5.30pm, ends 6 Feb. £8-£12. Great ewport Street, WC2 (0171-836

3334) O Leicester Square. KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Song at iwilight Noel Coward's dark auto grave. Tonight 8pm, ends 24 Jan. £12-£13, concs £7. Upper Street. N1 (0171-226 1916) & Angel/High-

TRICYCLE THEATRE The Colour of Lawrence case, Mon-Fri 8om, Sat 4.15pm & 8.15pm, mat today 2pm, ends 6 Feb. £8-£13.50. Kilbum High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) ↔ Kij-

YOUNG VIC STUDIO Special Offer A couple play out their relationship in a real display bedroom. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, ends 23 Jan. £8, concs £6. The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 6363)

#### **THEATRE** COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Holly and the lvy Study of life in a vicarage from Middle Ground Theatre. Tonight 7.45pm. E6.50-£12.50, concs av able. Bond Street (01273-328488)

NEW VIC STUDIO Freebird Jon Ivay's black comedy about three motorcyle couriers on a dodgy mission to Cornwall Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thu-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 2.30pm, ends 30 Jan. £9, concs £6. King Street (0117-987 7877)

Antics in Peking, Today 2.15pm & 7,15pm, ends 16 Jan. £4.50-£13. Regent Street (01242-572573) BELGRADE THEATRE Sleeping Beauty Family panto with stunning sets and a magical time machine. To

#### FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE starts its annual season of new writing with Kathryn Hunter's The Glory of Living. Amongst the sprawling trailer parks of America's southern states, the play focusses on Lisa and Clint who get their kicks through a variety of twisted and increasingly dangerous means. But they find their lifestyle under threat as the forces of righteousness close in around them. Rebecca Gilman makes her British stage debut in this new production directed by Kathryn Hunter. Royal Court Theatre West Street, London WC2 (0171-565 5000) opens 19 Jan

LIKE OTHER Mancunian hands such as the Stone Roses, Black Grape and the Charlatans, Andioweb (right) merge several traditional musical styles. Formed back in 1985, the hand are not afraid to run through the whole gamut of sounds, as illustrated in their debut album which combined scratching squeichy acid, dubby beats and sturdy guitar backing. If you are after something a bit different from the usual indie fare, then give Britpop's most resolute survivors a whirl. Improv Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London WI (0171-387 4173) 18 Jan



Street (01203-553055) WYCOMBE SWAN Jack and the Beanstalk Jean Boht, Michael Eiphick, Peter Duncan and Bonnie Langford star. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 17 Jan. £8.50-£15.50. St. Mary's Street (01494-512000)

SIR JOHN MILLS THEATRE Ferry Cross the Waveney 1960s story of a Lowestoft fishmonger who has dreams of knocking The Beatles out of the charts, Mon-Sat 7,45pm, mat today 4.15pm, ends 16 Jan. £7.75-£9.50, concs available. Gatacre Road (01473-211498)

LEICESTER HAYMARKET THEATRE Single' in the Rain High water mark of American musicals. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 6 Feb. [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 £7-£19.50. Belgrave Gate (0116-

> MAIDSTONE HAZLITT THEATRE Peter Pan Fly to Nevernever Land with Gladiator Gold. Phone for details. Earl Street

> (01622-758611) NEWBURY **WATERMILL THEATRE The Wizard** of Oz Follow Dorothy down the Yel-

> 16 Jan. £9.50-£14, concs available Bagnor (01635-46044) NORTHAMPTON THE DERNGATE Aladdin's Cave of Entertainment Exciting family entertainment starring Billy Pearce as Aladdin and Victor Spinetti as Abanaz Today 2pm & 7pm. £12-£15, concs

> available. Guildhall Road (01604-624811) THEATRE ROYAL Aladdin Stars Desmond Barrit, Christopher Cazenove and Nichola McAuliffe. Today

4pm & 7.30pm. £3-£12.75, concs 6300001 NOTTINGHAM NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE Jack

and the Beanstalk Kenneth Alan Taylor writes and directs his fifenth consecutive pantomime for Nottingham Playhouse. Today 7.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £9-£12, child £5-£8. East Circus Street (0115-941 THEATRE ROYAL Dick Whittington Spectacular pantomime starring

Holland and Hilary Minster, Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 23 Jan. £8-£15. concs available. Theatre Square (0115-989 5555/cc 948 2525) OXFORD APOLLO THEATRE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Fun panto

Lesley Joseph, John Nettles, Jeffrey

starring Gladiator Hunter and Denise Nolan. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm. £9-£11, concs available. George Street PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Cinderella Family panto with plenty of sones and audience participation for the dream-

17 Jan. £6-£16.50. Beaumont Street (01865-798600) PETERBOROUGH KEY THEATRE Dick Whittington and His Fabulous Cat Thrilling adventure story full of comedy, music and magic. Today 4.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 23 Jan. £5.75-£9.75, concs

ing spires. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends

available. Embankment Road (01733-552439) **POTTERS BAR** THE MILL AT SONNING Two Dozen Red Roses Comic love story set in romantic Rome. Tue-Sat 8.15pm, mats Sat 2.15pm, ends 20 Feb. £21.95-£32.95 including dinner.

SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER THEATRE Goldflocks and the Three Bears Frank Bruno, Karl Howman and Emily Symons in this star-studded panto. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 14 Feb. £7.50-£17.50. cones available. Commercial Road

Sonning Eye (0118-969 8000)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Adrian Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adaptation of the CS Lewis Namia classic. Today 1.30pm & 7.15pm, ends 27 Feb. £5-£30. Waterside (01789-295623)

ST IVES SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgeney's portrait of all-consuming sexual desire. Michael Attenborough directs. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30, Waterside (01789-

WINDSOR THEATRE ROYAL Puss in Boots Genial weatherman lan McCaskill is joined by panto veterans Rod Hull & Emu. Today 2pm & 7.30pm, ends 16 Jan. £6.50-£23, concs available. Thames Street (01753-853888)

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

AREBVCTWVTH ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE Here to Stay: Arts Council Collection Purchases of The 1990s Contemporary art inspired by domesticity and everyday objects, Mon-Sat 9am 5pm, ends 30 Jan, free. Penglais

(01970-623232) THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SO-CIETY All Zones Off Peak: Tom Wood Photographic representation of bus journeys. Mon-Sun 9.30am-5.30pm, ends 24 Jan. £2.50, concs £1.75. The Octagon Galleries, Mil-som Street (01225-462841)

RRISTOL ARNOLFINI Secret Victorians A vision of the 19th-century presented by 20th century artists. Mon-5at 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 31 Jan. free. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191)

CAMBRIDGE FTTZWILLIAM MUSEUM British Watercolours from the Oppe Collection Including works by Turner and Constable. Ends 24 Jan. The Society of Three: Whistler, Fanlow Brick Road. Tonight 7pm, ends tin-Latour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition of drawing and prints

> 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 14 Feb, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900) CHELTENHAM CHELTENHAM ART GALLERY and MUSEUM At the Sign of the Rainbow: Margaret Calkin James (1895-1985) Restrospective of designs, calligraphy and paintings. Mon-Sat 10am-5.20pm, ends 23 Jan,

examining the common stylistic

ground of the three artists. Tue-Sat

free. Clarence Street (01242-EXETER ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MIL SEUM Designs on Life: Edward Bawden Wide variety of work by the prominent graphic des

10am-5pm, ends 23 Jan. free. Queen Street (01392-265858) ESTORICK COLLECTION Zang Tumb Tumb Exhibition charting the editorial production of the Futurist movement. Wed-Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 12noon-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £2.50, concs £1.50, NUS free. 39a Canonbury Square, N1 (0171-704 9522) BR/O Highbury & Islington.

TATE GALLERY John Singer Sargent Comprehensive exhibit voted to the paintings of the 19th-century artist. Ends 17 Jan. £6. concs £4.

ing - Jean-Marc Bustamante In-stallation exploring international cities in photographs. Ends 31 Jan. Turner in the Alps Works on paper

made on Turner's first Alpine trip in 1802. Ends 14 Feb, free. In Celebration: The Art of The Country House Paintings and sculp-ture, including work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 28 Feb, free, Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) ⊕ Pimlico.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM Grinling Gibbons and the Art of Carving Celebrating the work of the 17th-century woodcarver, Ends 24

Picasso's Ladies: Wendy Ramshay Precious-metal jewellery. Ends 15 nere - Photographs from The Americas and Asia: Henri Cartier-Bresson Lesser-known subjects by

the 90 year-old photographer. Ends 12 Apr. Silver and Syrup: a Selection from The Collection Work by leading photographers. Mon 12noon-5.45pm, Tue-Sun 10am-5.45pm, ends 31 Jul. £5. concs £3, disabled/UB40/mems/after 4,30pm free. Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8441) + South Kensington.

OKFORD ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM 19th Century French Drawings Recent acquisitions alongside familiar major drawings. Ends 28 Feb. The Painterly Brush Oil sketches dating from the 16th to the early 20th century. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm, ends 21 Mar, free. Beaumont Street (01865-278000)

ST IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the second half of the century and a selection of contemporary work. English Roots: Eric Cameron Thousands of layers of paint surrounding organic objects. Quoit Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture linking St Ives

with Montserrat in the West Indies.

the artist's birthplace. Mon-Sat

11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11

Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor

#### CLASSICAL

MICHAEL TIPPETT CENTRE lan Pace Piano Sonatas by Beethoven and Tippett. Tonight 7.30pm. £6, concs £4.80. Bath College of High-er Education (01225-875875)

> BARBICAN HALL LSO/Numajiri Cello Concertos by Saint-Saens and Gubaldulina played by Rostropovich. Tonight 7.30pm. £6.50-£32. Bar-bican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) ◆ Moorgate/Barbican. ST GEORGE'S CHURCH New Iverson Consort/Moulds Wagner's We-sendonk Lieder with Rossini's Petite

> Hanover Square, W1 (0181-336 0990) ⊕ Marble Arch. WIGMORE HALL Solle Isoloski The soprano delivers Schumann and Strauss lieder. Tonight 7.30pm. £8-£15. Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) © Bond Street/Oxford Circus.

Messe Solemelle. Tonight 7.30pm. £10-£15 from 0181-997 5259.

#### **OPERA**

LONDON LYRIC STUDIO Vanessa Samuel Barber's opera receiving a belated UK premiere from the Other Theatre Company. Tonight 8pm. £10-£13, concs £5. King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith.

SADLER'S WELLS The Golden Cockerel New production by the Royal Opera of Rimsky-Korsakov, directed by Tim Hopkins. Tonight 7pm. £7.50-£60. Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-863 8000) ⊕ Angel.

#### DANCE

LONDON COLLSEUM English National Bal-let: Cinderella Michael Corder's award-winning production. Tonight 7.30pm (Klimentova/Tewsley). E2.50-£39.50. St. Martin's Lan WC2 (0171-632 8300) Leicester

Square/Charing Cross. PLACE THEATRE Resolution! Over 100 choreographers' work in London's important annual platform season. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 13 Feb. £8, concs £6. Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031) Euston.

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL The Roy**al Ballet: Romeo And Juliet Prokofiev's score, MacMillan's choreography and Georgiadas' designs. Tonight 7.30pm (Bussell/Zelensky). £10-£48. South Bank, SE1 (0171-

#### 960 4242) BR/@ Waterloo LITERATURE

THE BRIGHTON ROCK CREATIVE WRITERS Local writers read their own work or just come along to listen. Caxton Arms North Gardens

BABIES NEED BOOKS!: LITERA-TURE EVENT Discussion on choosing appropriate books for under fives, ideal for all new parents. Borders Oxford Street W1 (0171-287 1592) \varTheta Oxford Circus. Today

(01273-207762) Wed 8.30pm, free.

IAN MCEWAN AND MARTIN AMIS Celebration of the centenary of the birth of Argentine writer Jorge Link Borges. British Library Confer-ence Centre Euston Road NW1 (0171-412 7222/412 7760) & King's Cross. Tonight 6.15pm, £7.50,

#### **COMEDY**

BRISTOL STUDENT COMEDY NIGHT AT JESTERS COMEDY CLUB Andy Robinson, Sean Percival, plus others TBC. Tonight 8pm, Cheltenham (0117-909 6655) NUS £3.50.

COMEDY CAFE With James Dowdeswell, Kevin White, Mark James, Nick Metchalle, Glenn Woll, Paul McKenzie, Michael Wood, Steve Reyworth, MC Andy Fox. Tonight 9pm, Rivington Street, EC2 (0171-739 5706) Old Street, free,

#### **CLUBS**

SPACE AT BAR RUMBA Starting Harvey and Andy Weatherall. Tonight 10pm-3am, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-287 2715) & Piccadilly Circus.

£5, £3 before 1 ipm. STARSKY AND HUTCH UPSTAIRS AT RONNIE SCOTT'S 1970s disco, funk and rare groove night. Tonight 10pm-3am, Frith Street, W1 (0181-0523) → Leicester Square, £6,

NU PHUNK AT THE VIBE BAR Drum'n'bass, hip hop and more. Tonight 7pm-12midnight, Brick Lane, E1 6 (0171-247 1231) © Aldgate East.

#### **EVENTS**

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CONDON UNDER NIGHT STREETS Arare opportunity to see five films reveal some of the secrets of London Transport's night time operations. London Transport Museum Wellington Street WC2 (0171-836 8557) & Covent Garden/Leicester So/Charing Cross. Tonight 6.30pm-8.30pm, £6, concs £4, booking essential.

BEHIND THE SCENES Portraits of technicians and artists involved in the making of British films. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (last adm. 5pm), ends 26 Feb. £6.25, student £5.25, concs £4.50, under 5s free, family ticket £17.

CLASSICS OF THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA View short films while examining the doc-umentary film-maker's search for perfection. Introduced by Deac Rossell Tonight 7.30pm, £6, NFT mems £5

BIG BLUE - LONDON INTERNA-TIONAL BOAT SHOW Power boats. dinghies, racing sallboats and wind-surfers, plus companies specialising in watersports holidays. Warwick Hall Earls Court (0121-767 4500) Earls Court. Today, 15 & 16 Jan, 10am-7pm; 14 Jan, 10am-9.30pm, 17 Jan 10am-6pm, £10.50, £9 adult. family £18 (adv only).

SAFFRON WALDEN FEASTING AND FASTING EXHI-BITION Examining food and drink through history. Saffron Walden Museum Museum Street (01799-510333) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30pm-5pm, ends 14 Mar, £1, concs 50p, child free.

THE REALLY SENSIBLE SHOW A

#### touring exhibition exploring our five senses. Museum of St Albans Hatfield Road (01727-819340) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 17

MUSIC LONDON BELLATRIX, MIXEDUP A rare trip here for the Icelandic pop charmers who supported Blur at home. Barfig at the Falcon Royal College Street NW1 (0171-482 4808) & Camde

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Town. Tonight 8.30pm, £5. PHARCYDE Hip hop humourists from the west coast, here for the first time since Disco Log Cabin in 1997. Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060) & Camden Town. Tonight 8pm, £15.

ANDY BARNET & THE BARN-

STORMERS Rock covers band. The

Roadhouse The Piazza, Covent Gar-den Market WC2 (0171-240 6001) O Covent Garden, Tonight 9pm, £4. RISKIN' PADDY Spinning Wheel Northfields Avenue, Ealing W13 (0181-567 8348) & Northfields Avenue. Tonight 9.30pm, free.

CARVIN JONES BAND Station Tav-

ern Bramley Road W10 (0171-727 4053) Statimer Road. Tonight 8.30pm, phone for prices. LITTLE MOTHERS, COUSTEAU, NEUTRINOS Water Rats Theatre Gray's Inn Road WC1 (0181-885 6488) & King's Cross. Tonight

PUMP, THROAT OYSTER Horn Reorn Victoria Street (01727-853143) Tonight 8pm, £2. SUTTON SLIP Three-piece rock covers band. Fielder & Firkin High Street (0181-642 9018) Tonight 8pm, phone for

8.30pm. £5. concs £4.

ST ALBANS

## **MUSIC**

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

LONDON PAUL JONES, NICK WELDON SAX and piano-led modern jazz. 606 Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) Fulham Broadway/Earls Court. Tonight 9.30pm & 12mid-night, £4.95

trumpeter with a penchant for mid-dle period Miles. Barbican Centre FreeStage Silk Street ECZ (0171-638 8891) 

Barbican/Moorgate. Tonight 5.30pm, free. TERRY DRUMMOND'S STOMP

LOZ SPEYER QUARTET Modern

Versatile eight piece swing, bop and fusion band. Bull's Head Lonsdale Road SW13 (0181-876 5241) BR: Barnes Bridge, Tonight 8pm, £4. MOSE ALLISON TRIC Whimsical US vocalist, Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722)

O Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 8.30pm, £12.50 (Fri-Sat £15). SALENA JONES Polished Broadway vocalist sings Gershwin and Cole Porter Pizza on the Park Knights-bridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) → Hyde Park Come ar. Tonight 9.15pm

& 11.15pm, £18, £16 adv PETER KING Arguably the UK's finest alto sax exponent. Vortex Stoke Newington Church Street N16 (0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke rington. Tonight 9pm, £10,

16011:0150



#### WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.6-99.8MHz FM ) 6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 6-00 Dave Pearce. 8-00 Steve Lamaco - the Evening Session. 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 10.10 John Peel. 12.00 Gilles Peterson. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills. RADIO 2

(88-90.2MHz FM ) 6.00 Sarah Kennedy: The Dawn 'atrol: news, views and music, Vus a review of the morning's papers. Including 6.15 Pause for Thought. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart: Entertainment news, Brain Busters, Three after Three, the Accumulator Quiz and regular travel updates 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Nick Barraclough. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show: Andy Peebles presents the eighth of 13 programmes exploring the world of soul music from the 50s to the present day. 10.00 Route 66 Revisited. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 -

4.00 Alex Lester. RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM ) **6.00** On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week 11-00 Sound Stories. See Pick of 

Rimsky-Korsakov. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Choral Evensong.

**5.00** In Tune. 8.90 Performance on 3. Live from the Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville. Conductor Jerzy Maksymiuk, Ilya Itin (piano). Alasdair Nicolson: Breakdance. Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor.

8.55 News from North Britain. Five new stories from Scotland, 1: 'Virtual', by Ali Smith. An anorexic is given a computer pet while als is in hospital. If she does not keep pressing the buttons, it will die. Reader Vicki Liddelle.

#### PICK OF THE DAY

CONTINUING TO scour history "Feuds Corner", putting the for musical rivalries of a case for Cherubini's originality. Mozart and Salieri intensity, Among the line excerpts, we Sound Stories (11am R3) focuses on the antagonism Berlioz's ground-breaking between Berlioz and his former song-cycle Les Nuils d'Été. teacher. Cherubini. Berlioz's memoirs offer up such choice winning comedian Sean Lock anecdotes as his offers of cash during a performance of Ali Baba to hear a single idea. Misery (11pm R4). Richard Baker (right) narrates

9.15 Concert, part 2. Dvorak:

10.05 Postscript. Paul Neuberg

Communist project which sought

western country most affected by

the impact of the Bolshevik revolu-

tion. Writers and artists who had

rejected the old order and its pa-

triarchal rule and turned to Com-

facing a difficult choice between

personal reconstruction, loyal re-

Dance No 1. Percy Grainger and

Saatchi's eye for the latest trend in

London, Laura Cumming examines

this new definition of the cutting

12-00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the De-

tective and Arthur Conan Doyle.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; Murder, Magic and

10.30 Cyril Scott, Symphonic

10.45 Night Waves. Charles

modern art has become leg-

endary. As 'Neurotic Realism'

opens at the Saatchi Gallery in

sistance and rejection.

the Composer (pianos).

edge and its concerns.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

(92.4-94.6MHz FM )

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Midweek.

11.30 Choice Grenfell.

RADIO 4

munism now found themselves

continues his exploration of the

to use the arts to remould peo-

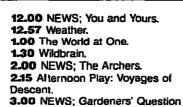
ples minds. 3: The Embrace of

Discipline'. Germany was the

Symphony No 7 in D minor.

get to hear "Absence" from

On a lighter note, the awardpresents a view of life from a tower-block in 15 Minutes of DOMINIC CAVENDISH



3.30 Tales from the Village. 3.45 This Sceptred Isle. 4.00 NEWS; Case Notes Special: No Issue. 4.30 Thinking Allowed.

5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Like They've Never Been Gone. (R) 7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7.15 Front Row, John Wilson chairs the arts programme, including a look at the work of Julian Schnabel, one of New York's most talked about painters, in the light of a new British exhibition.

7.45 Lady Susan. Drama: 'Lady Susan' by Jane Austen. Adapted by Lavinia Murray. With Harriet Walter and Maggie Steed (3/10). 8.00 NEWS; Them and Us. Diana Madill presents the last in a threepart series of lively debates about the major issues of the day. This week, speakers in Weston-super-Mare discuss the proposition: 'We have become a society where illegal drugs are accepted'. 8.45 Gerry's Bar. Gerry Anderson

9.00 NEWS; Animals Behaving Badly. In the last of four programmes exploring some of the many antisocial activities of wildlife around the globe, Mark Carwardine asks why jungle fowl and crickets fight to the death and why male lions kill the cubs of females with whom they mate. 9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversa-

10.00 The World Tonight. With Anne McKenzie. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana. By Emile Zola, read by Juliet Stevenson (8/15).

11.00 NEWS: Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of Misery. Sean Lock, winner of the Time Out Comedy Award, presents a comic view of life from his tower block flat. With Kevin Eldon and Hattie Hayridge. See Pick of the Day. 11.15 For One Horrible Moment.

11.30 The Cheese Shop Pre-12.00 News.

12.30 Late Book: Last Resort.

12.48 Shipping Forecast. 100 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. **5.47 - 6.00** Farming Today.

**RADIO 4 LW** (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 · 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping

Forecast. 11.30 Parliament.

**RADIO 5 LIVE** (693, 909kHz MW ) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. **4.00** Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 John Inverdale's Football

Night. Full coverage of the night's FA Cup third-round replays. Plus the National Lottery Draw. 10.00 Littlejohn. Football phonein with Richard Littlejohn: 0500 11.00 Late Night Live. With Brian

Hayes. Including 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (1000-101.9MHz FM ) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto: Offenbach: Concerto militaire in G. Ofra Harnoy (cello), Bournemouth SO/Antonio de Almeida. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight, 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: Mozart: Sinfonia concertante in F flat, K364. Gidon Kremer (violin), Kim Kashkashian (viola), ASMF/Nikolaus Harnoncourt. Beethoven: Symphony No 2 in D. Berlin PO/Herbert von Karajan. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. **VIRGIN RADIO** 

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM ) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

**WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW ) 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridian (Live). 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Everywoman. 3.00

The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00). TALK RADIO

6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Nancy Roberts. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The Sports Zone, 8.00 James Whale. 12.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

December (9744058), 7.40 The Cornedy

(1843706). 8.20 Yes, Minister (3560868)

9.00 One Foot in the Grave (4677313). 9.40 Jonathan Creek (75162145). 10.55

(1680172), 12-35 Backup (8367838), 1.30

Harry's Kingdom (4678085), 3.00 - 7.00

French and Seunders (5381139). 11.35 The Bill (6693067). 12.05 The Bill

Shopping with Screenshop (2664172).

6.00 Tiny and Crew (49783145). 6.20 Philbert the Frog (29689232), **6.30** Johnson and Friends (64474348). **6.45** Tiny Tales (17728685). **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts

Alternative: It Ain't Half Hot. Mum

#### INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

#### **CHESS** JON SPEELMAN

LAST OCTOBER, Murugan Thiruchelvam from New Malden in Surrey created a new record when, still more than a month short of his 10th birthday, he became the youngest player ever to draw with a grandmaster – Bogdan Lalic. Now aged just over 10 years - he reached double figures on 11 December - he has breached a fresh barrier by becoming the youngest person ever to qualify for the British and probably

any national championship.

Murugan's further success came in the Fulprint 12th Yorks Chess Congress last weekend, when he was clear second on 4.5/5 behind the winner Matthew Turner on a perfect 5. This excellent result gave him a performance rating on 226 - translating to 2.408, about par for an international master - entitling him to a place in the Smith and Williamson British Championship in Scarborough in August more than a year earlier than the previous youngest, Luke McShane and Simon Buckley.

Of course you shouldn't extrapolate from such things unreasonably. But it comes not as a flash in the pan but rather as part of a steady stream of excellence, both at a junior level (British under-8, Onyx under-10, England under-11, London under-12 titles1 and in adult competition where he has progressed via minors and majors to feel comfortable in open tournaments.

Last month, Murugan was one of 10 Bd2 Nbc6 four juniors to face Gary Kasparov in simultaneous play as part of the launch of the new Internet-based service Play Games Now! for the BT games network Wireplay; and when I spoke to Kasparov the next day he said he was particularly impressed

by him. So without in any way wishing to burden him with excessive expectations, it's more than likely that he will become a very strong player. Here is how he dispatched the experienced British Championship player and Fide arbiter Harry Lamb in the last round in York.

In a French Winawer, Murugan played the eccentric 12 Bb5, exchanging bishops, after which he initially had insufficient compensation for the weakened queenside.

19 Bb4! created some play by getting rid of an important defender. Murugan shocked his opponent with 32 Nxd4! which couldn't be taken in view of 32... Oxd4 33 Oe6+ Kh7 34 Qxc8 Qd5 35 Qh3! (35 Rg1 Nxg2 36 Rxg2 Qd1 + is perpetual check). Black would still have been doing fine after 32... Rf8! eg 33 Nf3 Qf5 or 33 Qd3 Qf4! but went under with 32... Rc3? At the end there was no defence to the threat of 35 Rxe3!

#### White: Murugan Thiruchelvam Black: Harry Lamb

French Winawer 1 e4 e6 18 Rf3 f6 2 d4 d5 19 Bb4 fxe5 3 Nc3 Bb4 20 dxe5 Rf7 4 eā cā 21 Bxe7 Qxe7 5 a3 Bxc3+ 22 Ng6 Qc5+ 6 bxc3 Ne7 23 Kh1 Rc8 7 Nf3 Bd7 24 £5 ex£5 8 Bd3 Ba4 25 Rxf5 Ne3 9 0-0 Qa5 26 Rxf7 Kxf7 27 e6+ Kxe6 11 Qb1 Qc7 28 Re1 d4 12 Bb5 Bxb5 29 Nf4+ Kf7 13 Qxb5 cxd4 30 Qg6+ Kg8 14 exd4 0-0 31 Ne6 Qe5 15 Qd3 h6 32 Nxd4! Rc3? 16 Nh4 Na5 33 Ne6 Rc8 17 f4 Nc4 34 h3 1-0

#### BRIDGE ALAN HIRON

WHEN A card from dummy may, or may not, may be the prelude to a ruffing finesse, the defender who is in a position to cover often has a difficult decision to make. On this deal, although the slam reached by North-South was odds on, the 4-1 trump break should have led them to defeat.

North opened One Club and South, judging that otherwise it might be difficult for him to catch up later, forced with Two Diamonds. North showed his hearts and a series of incomprehensible bids now led the partnership to Six Diamonds. As I said, it was a good slam until West led #J to the queen, king and ace, and two rounds of trumps exposed the tiresome division. Without any visible signs of emotion, declarer drew a third round and followed by cash-

ing dummy's AK. An interesting psychological (and ethical?) point now arose. Declarer had followed the club pops closely and knew that dummy's jack six and five were equals. He called for "a small club, olease!" and East (who had not followed the spot cards in the suit so well but should have been able to add up to 13) assumed that South planned to ruff in the hope of bringing down a supposed queen from

North **+**07 **♥AK82** ♦ 10.2 **♣**AKJ65 West **East ♠**J 10986 **◆**K432 ♥Q 10 5 4 ლ93 ♦J753 09 **4**108 **♣Q432** South **♦**A 5 ♥J76 ♦AKQ864

East-West game; dealer North

West's hand. So, perhaps caught on the hop, he played low. Declarer discarded his losing spade and although West ruffed this, there was time for the fifth club to be set up for a heart discard.

Clearly it was legitimate to call for "a small club", but was it akin to coffee-housing? Mind you, East really should have covered the club. If his partner did not hold the missing O J, what possible defence could there be? As you can see, if it goes "small club", +Q, and South ruffs, West can over-ruff and take his spade trick.

#### SATELLITE AND CABLE

presents a series of reflections on

life in Ireland. 1: 'Opening Time'.

#### SKY PREMIER

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 $\Delta C/\xi_{ABG}$ 

200

**6.00** The Borrowers (1973) (9357333). **7.20** Lady Jane (1985) (80605058). **9.40** Shaughnessy (1996) (25683936). **11.40** Fly Away Home (1996) (26222400). **1.40** Lady Jane (1985) (76243597). 4.00 Away Home (1996) (34955). 7.30 Barry Norman's Film Night (9787). 8.00 Willia Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (1996) (98684). See Pick of the Day. 10.00 Letters from a Killer (1998) (860145), 11.50 Abyss (1989) (16031961), 2.10 Defenseless (1991) (503066). 3.55 - 6.00 Carriers (1997) (89162269).

7 UK Top Ten (74435), 7:30 Femmes F: 3es (8539139), 8:45 Movie Magic (2789394), 9:00 Lovestruck (1995) (53400), 11.00 The End of the Golden Weather (1991) (95868). 1.00 UK Top Ten (73706). 1.30 Femmes Fatales (8482787). 2.15 Movie Magic (3868139), 3.00 The Blg Gerne (1995) (90416). 5-00 The End of the Golden Weether (1991) (11023). 7.00 Lovestruck (1996) (81771). 9.00 One Hot Summer Night (1997) (99313). 11.00 Cobra (1986) (34348). 12.30 Flesh and Blood (1985) (42954559). 2.35 The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Mangolds (1972) (492646). 4.15 - 6.00 The Big Game (1995) (426608).

SKY CINEMA 4.00 The City That Never Sleeps (1953) (8918752), **6.00** Magic Town (1947) (7396665), **8.00** Merrill's Marauders (1962) (7391110). 10.00 For a Few Dollars More (1965) (32135482), 12.10 Alice (2643153), 2.05 The Magus (1968) (1940) (74127838). 5.30 Close.

FILMPOUR 6.00 The Navigator (1988) (7288139). 8.00 Turaive Monkeys (1995) (65412394). See Fig. of the Day. 10.15 La Jetee (1962) (6369619), 10.45 The Harnster Factory and Other Tales of 12 Monkeys (6192058). 12.15 Time after Time (1979) (1843191). 2.10 Spanking the Monkey (1994) (2126269), 3.50 - 6.00 The Madness of King George (1994) (53680085).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL 4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (1858771). 4.30 Walker's World (1854955). 5.00 Flightline (1308936). 5.30 History's Turning Points (1941435), 6.00 Animal Doctor (1948348). **6.30** Hunters (2335058). **7.30** Beyond 2000 (1855684).

#### PICK OF THE DAY

BAZ LUHRMANN'S production of Director Terry Gilliam's by the casting of Leonardo Hamlet next, they will know who apocalyptic plague. to cast in the lead.

8.00 Anthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (1400348). 8.30 Creatures Fantas-

tic (1316955). 9.00 History's Mysteries

(6667706), 9.30 History's Mysteries (4890023), 10.00 Mysteries of the East (9244313), 11.00 Ferrari (7430969), 12.00 Lost Treasures of the Yangtze Valley

(3848801). **1.00** History's Turning Points (4020820). **1.30-2.00** Flightline (9515511).

7.00 Count Duckula (83139). 7.30 The

Chris Evans Breakfast Show (35348). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (60954). 9.00

Sally Jessy Raphael (37771). 10,00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (64058). 11,00 Guilty! (71394). 12,00 Jenny Jones (58771). 1,00 Med about You (75110). 1,30

Jeopardy (42435). 2.00 Sally Jessy

Rephael (59684). 3.00 Jenny Jones

ried with Children (3313). 6.30 Friends

10.00 Naked in Westminster (84481). 11.00 Friends (51685). 11.30 Star Trei

Sports Centre (4231936). 8-30 Racino

10.00 Total Sport (85077). 10.30 Inside

News (16961). 9.00 Aerobics (34313). 9.30 You're on Sky Sports (58481).

SKY SPORTS 1

William Shakespeare's Romeo imagination may sometimes + Juliet (8pm Sky Premier) is need reining in, but surely that a movie for the MTV generation, is no bad thing given the set amid the contemporary formulaic nature of most guns and drugs gangland culture Hollywood films. He brings his of contempary America. Huge unique visual sense to Twelve numbers of young people flocked Monkeys (8pm FilmFour), a to see this film, no doubt helped haunting time-travel adventure. Bruce Willis (right) stars as a DiCaprio as Romeo. If film- disturbed convict sent back in makers want to sell youngsters time to discover the cause of an **JAMES RAMPTON** 



ottish Football (27416). 11.30 Fastrax R2503). 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (27077). 12.30 Badminton (56313). 2.30 (42645042). 8.00 Cricket (40113961). 10.00 Sports Classics Cricket: England vs West Incles 1995 (40036968). 11.00 The Entertainers (62258435). 11.30 World Windsurling (8232). 3.00 Inside Scottish Football (93619), 4.00 Super bouts Frankin v Johnson (73446). 5.00 World Wresting Federation Shot Gun Challenge (2329), 6.00 Sky Sports Cen-tre (9961), 6.30 Unbellevable Sports **EUROSPORT** (7313). **7.00** Pool (27110). **8.00** Ringside (49042). **9.30** Unbelievable Sports

(45961), 10.00 Sports Centre (113690). 10.15 You're on Sky Sports (240145). 10.45 Pool (9/4503), 11.45 Sky Sports Centre (139139), 12.00 You're on Sky Sports (31191). 12.30 Football (59288). 2.00 Ringside (90337). 3.30 Sky Sports Centre (20120627). 3.45 Close. SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (9625226). 7.30 International Cricket (3884042). 11.00 V-

(44329). **4.00** Guittyl (50936). **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (7969). **6.00** Mar Mex (2746868), 11.30 Sports Unlimited (4621400), 12.30 Totalsport (7637042). (4665). **7.00** The Simpsons (1868), **7.30** The Simpsons (6077). **8.00** Stargete SG-1 (74058), **9.00** The X-Files (81394). 1.00 Cricket (2521619). 3.00 Golf Extra (6805918). 6.00 Watersports (7718961). 7.00 Footbal (7626597). 10.00 Golf Ex-tra (9746145). 1.00 European Weekly (9427849). 1.30 Watersports (8284443). 2.30-2.45 Sports Centre (80868998). (16400), **12,30** Highlander (19220), **1,30 7,00** Long Play (5995820). SKY SPORTS 3 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (4847085). 7:15 World Wrestling (793288). 8:15 Sky 12.00 World Wrestling (68140232). 1.00 Fish TV (66310145). 1.30 Fish TV

7.30 Relly: Total Granada Dakar 99 ing (70145), 10.30 Biathion (25665) 1L00 Rally (73482). 1L30 Biathlon (54787). **1.00** Blathlon (13348). **1.30** Blathlon (53936). **2.00** African Cups

UK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (2686067). 7.30 Neighbours (9111706), 7.55 EastEnders (1979665), 8.30 The Bill (8400416), 9.00 The Bill (8328868), 9.30 The House of Eliott (2360771), 10.30 Angels (8317752). 11.00 Dallas (6815787), 11.55 Neigh-(7445139), 1.00 Juliet Bravo (4800400). 2.00 Dallas (1020348) 2.55 The Bill (1460685) 3.25 The Bill (6753232) 3.55 EastEnders (3457435), 4.30 Angels (1856313). 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (1492329). 6.00 Dynasty (4897936).

European Tour Weekly (42729058). 7.00 Fish TV (19580313). 7.30 Fish TV

(20684), 8-00 Snowboarding (41503), 9.00 Biathlon (51329), 10.00 Alpine Ski-(49752), 3.30 Biathlon (24394), 5.00 Snowboarding (4597), 6.00 Speedworld (62684). **7.00** Aerobics (25706). **8.00** Darts (34110), 9.30 Rally (47329), 10.00 Boxing (24077). **11.00** Speedworld (27597). **12.00-12.30** Raily (33559).

7.00 The Comedy Alternative: May to

(17812058). 7.00 Practical Parenting (5092400), 7.05 Professor Bubble (5076481). 7.30 Callou (5079874). 7.35 Bug Alert (6046110). 7.55 Practical Par-

LIVING

enting (6527226), **8.00** Barney and Friends (2718955), **8.30** Tiny Tales (7243226). 8-35 Tirry and Crew (8694936). 8.50 Practical Parenting (9103226) 9-00 Diet Show (2804706). 9.30 Roseanne (3738394), 10.00 Jerry Springer (6593139), 10.50 Maury Povich (5313706). 11.40 Brookside (56214348). 12.10 Animal Rescue (74325313). 12.40 Rescue 911 (13443400). 1.10 Special Babies (23718139). **1.40** Beyond Belief (79376110). 2.10 LA Law (3495435). 3.10 Living Room (7321416). 4.00 Michael Cole 4852139), 4.50 Rolonda (7752333), 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (7659706). 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show (1847435). 7.05 Rescue 911 (4037145). 7.35 Animal Rescue (9347665). **8.00** Murder Call (7395936). 9.00 Film: A Kidnapping in the Family (1996) (7398023). 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (3458936). 12.00 Close.

9.00 Somebody Up There Likes Me (1956) (36711110). 11.15 Hearts of the West (1975) (14745348). 1.15 The Liquidator (1966) (60510153), 3.00 Somebody Up There Likes Me (1956) (59782612). **5.00** Close. PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Clueless (1400), 7.30 Desmond's (1139), 8.00 Roseanne (5508), 8.30 radio (6955). 9.00 Cybill (96752). 9.30 Vic Reeves' Big Night Out (43503) 10.00 Frasier (26348) 10.30 Cheers (39868) 11.00 Seinfeld (23987) 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (72503), 12,00 1.00 Taxi (65882). 1.30 The Critic (19191). 2.00 Dr Katz (16085), 2.30 Soap (28820). 3.00 Tibs and Fibs (85646). 3.30 Nightstand (19172), 4.00 Close.

#### REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

(68064868), 2.00 Superbouts (13938787).

3.00 Olympic Series Road to Nagano (19661232), 3.30 Rafting (94888503).

4.30 Figure Skatting (77879329). 6.30

#### BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 **BBC1 SCOTLAND**

As BBC1 London except: 2.55
Dotaman (3655955). 3.10 Dochaidh Mor (Dakey Doke) (9904936). 6.00 News (481). 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather (961). 9.30 Don't Call Us (91810). 40.00 Chewin' the Fat (77619). 10.30 The X Files (407329), 11.15 Curing (200787). 12.15 Film: In the Deep Woods (968630), 1.55 BBC News 24 (36401172). BBC1 WALES

As BBC1 London except: 6.30 W-5s Today (961). ANGLIA

As Cariton except: 12.20 Angia News and Weather (6088787). 1.00 Up-shot (46684). 1.30 Home and Away: Aus-tralian soap, Alisa is far from relaxed by her country drive with Irens. Sam feels unwelcome in Fisher's house. Natalie faces the truth about her attitude to Taces the fruit about her actube (15313).

2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2902145).

3.20 Angla News (2096329). 5.10 Short-land Street (6800918). 6.00 Home and Away (563665). 6.25 Anglia News (50861). 10.30 Angla News (454665). 4.05 Picking the Fruit - the Making of Still Crazy: A behind-the-scenes look at the making of Brit comedy 'Still Crazy', about the reformation of a rock band. The film stars Stephen Rea, Billy Connol-The farm stars Stephen hea, buy Cornor, Timothy Spall and Withness and I creator Bruce Robinson (21279337), 4.35 Soundtrax (34579462), 4.50 Nightscreen (25605248), 5.00 Coronation St (40462).

CENTRAL As Cariton except: 12,20 Central News and Weather (6088767). 1.00 Echo Point (46884). 3.20 Central News (2096329). 5.10 Shortland Street: Serial (200329), 520 Shortland Street: Sarial set in an accident and emergency citric in Auckland, New Zealand (6800918), 6.00 Home and Away (563685), 6.25 Central News and Weather (506961), 10.30 Central News and Weather (454865), 4.05 Jobfinder (8958996), 5.20 Asian Eye (4242153).

HTV WALES As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning: The magazine programme pre-sented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. With advice on family life, Chance in a Million with Johnny Ball, and recipes from Rosemary Conley. Plus agony aunt Denise Robertson, including 10.55 ITN News Headlines, followed by lo-

cal news (24165771). 12.15 HTV News (\$399139). 1.00 Shortland Street (45684). 1.30 Home and Away (15313). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2902145). 3.20 HTV News (2096329). 5.40 A Country Practice (6800918), 6.00 Home and Avay (583665), 6.25 Wales Tonight (508961), 10.30 HTV News (434665), 4.05 Picking the Fruit - the Making of Still Crazy' (21279337), 4.35 Soundtrax (34579482), 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (25605248). 5.00 Coronation St (40462).

HTV WEST As HTV Wales except: 1.00 Next Stop... (46684). 6.25 HTV West Weather (915619). 6.30 The West Tonight (329).

As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (2085771). 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (9399739), 1.00 Shortland Street Weither (9399139). 1.00 Shortland Street (46684). 1.30 Home and Away (15313). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (2902145). 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (2096329). 5.10 Home and Away (5800918). 5.37 Three Minutes (205139). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (357). 6.30 Birdwatch with Chris Packham (329). 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (454665). 4.05 Picking the Fruit - the Making of 'Still Crazy' (21279337). 4.35 Soundtrax (34579462), **4.50** ITV Nightscreen (25605248), **5.00** Freescreen (40462). WESTCOUNTRY

As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (24)6577), 12.15 Westcountry News (9399)39), 12.27 Illuminations (6095706), 1.00 Emmerdale (46884), 3.20 Westcountry News (2096329).
6.00 Westcountry Live (97961). 10.30 Westcountry News (454665). 4.05 Picking the Fruit - the Making of 'Still Crazy' (21276337). 4.35 Soundtrax (34579462). 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (25605248). 5.00 Coronation Street (40462). YORKSHIRE

As Cariton except: 12.20 Calendar As Certton except: 12-20 Celendar News and Weather (6088787). 100 Home and Away (82584865). 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (8591415). 2.30 Emmerdale (3057884). 3.20 Celendar News Headines (2096329). 5.40 News; Weather (588787). 5.55 Calandar (168110). 6.30 Tonight (329). 10.30 Calandar News and Weather (454665). 4.35 Jobfinder (8947882). TYNE TEES

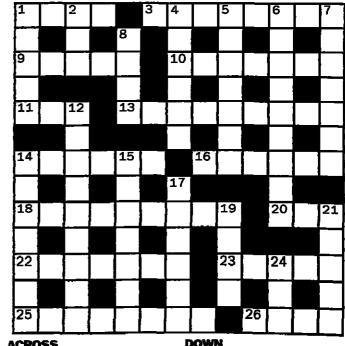
TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North
East News and Weather (6097435).
12.25 Jobink (6096706). 3.20 North
East News Headlines (2096329). 5.55
North East Weather (381503). 6.00

North East Tonight (97961), 10.34 North East News and Weather (454665).

As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Bewitched (16503400). 12.30 Sesame Street (38678874). 1.00 Planed Plant (47005077). 1.30 Film: The Bishop's Wife\* (99962955), 4.30 Ricki Lake (56293400), 5,00 Planed Plant (56253400, 5.00 Paned Pant (27680990). 5.30 Countdown (56284752). 6.00 Newyddion (69163042). 6.30 Heno (9567239). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (72539446). 7.30 Newyddion (56374329). 8.00 Piermio (21280954). 8.30 Pacio (81084351). 9.00 E R - The Peoples Executive Robe, 540404 (77250984). Favourite: Baby Shower (77352634). 10.00 Brookside: Jackie tries to ease the pain of betrayal for Lindsey. DS Rose continues his quest to make Luke's face fit the crime. And the skeletons are beginning to emerge from the Musgroves' closet (54052042). 10.35 E R: Life for the dedicated physicians in the busy emerdedicated physicians in the busy emer-gency room of a city hospital is dramati-cally and provocatively explored. Drama from the pen of Michael Crichton, author of Lurassic Park' (36335139), 11.30 The Mark Thomas Cornedy Product (35705961). 12.00 The Cornedy Lab (52168443). 4.00 Close.

#### No.3818 Wednesday 13 January

CONCISE CROSSWORD



#### **ACROSS** 1 Barrel for containing rainwa-

ter (4) In rows (8) Prohibition (5)

10 Flowering plant (7) 11 Container for bricks (3) 13 Type of cipher (5.4) 14 Becomes liable for (6) 16 Very large number (6)

18 Viewing things from the worst aspect (9) 20 Writing point (3) 22 Coal container (7)

23 Expect (5) 25 Lasting (8) 26 Fund-raising event (4)

17 Bird used for carrying messages (6) 19 Intend (4) 21 Wash (5) 24 Chopping implement (3)

Quantity made at one time

Ice-cream container (3)

Attempt (6)

Unstable (7)

Guardian (9)

12 Breed of dog (9)

15 Revel noisily (7)

Shape (4)

14 Deadlock (7)

Cul-de-sac (4-3)

Selution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Slough, 4 Chais (Slouch bass), 8 Anger, 9 Leotard, 10 Sincere, 11 Mere, 12 Keg, 14 Magi, 15 Ache, 18 Ace, 21 Ibex, 23 Bravado, 25 Slacken, 26 Octet, 27 Opera, 28 Stance, DOWN: 1 Sparse, 2 Organza, 3 Gardenia, 4 Chop, 5 Aware, 6 Sadden, 7 Sleek, 13 Gadabout, 16 Hearten, 17 Fiasco, 19 Ebony, 20 Bottle, 22 Elate, 24 Okra.

# WEDNESDAY LEVISION

ROBERT HANKS

T N

10

**200** 

9.00 Business Breakfast (45232). 7.00 News (T) (21329).
9.00 Kliroy (S) (T) (8609565). 9.45 The Vanessa Show (S) (T) (5145435). 10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (701329). 11.00 Real Rooms (S) (7021706). 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (T) (7928665). 12.00 Call My Regional News; Weather (T) (1217861). 12.00 Call My Bluff (S) (6960). 12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (S) (T) (94874). 1.00 News; Weather (T) (24416). 1.30 Regional News and Weather (86632665). 1.40 Neighbours (S) (T) (65312481). 2.05 Ironside (R) (7805955). 2.55 Going for a Song (S) (859010). 3.20 The Weather Show (S) (T) (2044961).

Children's BBC: Playdays (R) (S) (719/510), 3.45 Little Monsters (S) (9/89961), 3.50 ChuckleVision (S) (T) (8023023), 4.40 See It Saw It (S) (T) (6932495), 4.35 The Wild House (S) (T) (1964597), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (6401226), 5.10 Blue Peter (S) (T) (6534481).

Wildlife on One. Following a family of woives in the Canadian Arctic over two years. David Attenborough narrates (R) (S) (T) (9058).

8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (S) (T) (947058). 9.00 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (5077).

**(NIIII) In the Deep Woods** (Charles Correll 1992 US). Rosenna Arquette and Anthony Perkins are together at last in this psychological thriller. See *Film of the Day*, below (S) (T) (785955).

Joins BBC News 24 (59886714). To 6am

Kelsey Grammer
My Favourite Episode

6.00 News; Weather (1) (481).

7.30 **Dream House.** Carol Vorderman continues to oversee the construction of a hi-tech house for the Millennium. This the construction of a hi-tech house for the Millennium. This while, elsewhere, Adam Woodyatt

9.30 The X-Files. "Bad Blood". A pizza-delivery boy is suspected of being a vampire in this latest slice of highly seasoned paranormal nonsense with agents Mulder and Scully (S) (T) (562394).

9.50

12.30 Working Lunch (92416). 1.00 Brum (R) (73603110).
1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (2428752). 2.10 Sporting Greats (S) (22229349). 2.40 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6982313). 2.45 Westminster (6873110).
3.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9690145).

6.00 Star Trok - The Next Generation. Alien visitors with telepathic powers board the Enterprise and send Trol, Riker and Dr Crusher into unexplained comes (R) (S) (T) (536597).

9.00 ETILIDA Mersey Blues. Can the Merseyside drugs squad cope with their new budget ilmitations? The first in an jaw-dropping new docu-series about the Merseyside police force. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (431110).

**BIDIES** Blood on the Carpet: The Rocco Forte Story. The first of six notable boardroom battles. See *Profile of the Day*, below (S) (T) (285394).

**night.** With Jeremy Paxman (T) (325771).

11.15 Trial by Jury. Continuing the real-life trial of a fictional murder case (Then Weatherview) (S) (T) (191936).

6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Fantasy series about the adventures of a 16-year-old girl who fights to rid the world of supernatural evil. Buffy's biology teacher is killed by a glant praying mantis (S) (T) (930684).

7.30 Tales from the Riverbank. Geoffrey Palmer visits the river Spey in the highlands of Scotland and talks us through the incredible journey of the salmon (A) (787).

8.00 Battle of the Sexes. "Choosy Females". The second in this often enthropomorphically amusing series looks at how females select their mates (S) (T) (6348).

8.30 Home Front. Stylish ways to store videos, magazines and books, and a basic guide to flower arranging (S) (T) (2956).

10.40 0.40

40 The Big Match: FA Cup Replay. Bob Wilson introduces highlights from tonights FA Cup third-round replays (21395329).

15 11171 Fatal Deception: Mrs Lee Harvey Oswald (Robert Dornhelm 1993 US). Helena Bonham Carter plays (and is rather good as) Marina Oswald, the Russian-born wife of JFK assessin Lee Harvey Oswald, in this above-par biopic (168658).

11,30

8.00 Brookside. Skeletons are beginning to emerge from the Musgroves' closet. That probably means literally, this being *Brookside* (S) (T) (1416).

8.00 Wing and a Prayer. Return of Channel 5's only home-grown drams series (which was Bafta-nominated by the way), starring Kate Buffery and George Irving as legal eagles. A woman is accused of burning down her lover's home (S) (T) (5464752).

0 339

7.55 Gilbert and Suillvan: the Very Models. The success of *The Mikado* unleashes mutual jealousy in our model composers (722836).

London Tonight (T) (454865).

News; Weather (T) (238226).

3.30

6.00 London Yonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East, including a local weather bulletin (1) (357). **London Bridge.** Capital scap. The hunt for Kim and Kofi moves to Southend (S) (329).

Coronation Street. The reading of Alfa will (T) (313).

**Garages from Hell.** Yet more horror stories concerning the motor trade, Dennis Waterman provides the nerration (T) (2619).

News; Weather (T) (62787)

**The Jerry Springer Show** (2:88240), **2,40** Master Class (7849608), **3,05** Trisha (R) (S) (T) (9846004), **4,05** Soundtrax (S) (6044251), **4,15** ITV Nightscreen (8947882), **5,30** News (43998), To 6am.

4.00 IIIM Submarine Patrol (John Ford 1938 US).
Minor First World War marine drama. Richard Greene stars as a playboy who joins the US Navy, is assigned to chase submarines, and slowly earns the respect of his men (15/1882). To 5.40am.

ITV Carlton

7.00 The Big Breakfast (S) (41139)

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25 **Trisha** (S) (7) (3661961), **10.30** This Morning (T) (65364348), **12.20** Your Shout (6088787), **12.30** News; Weather (T) (16042), **1.00** London Today (T) (46684), **1.30** The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (9937042), **2.15** Home and Away (S) (T) (605464), **2.45** Dale's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (173455), **3.15** ITN News Headlines (T) (2098416), **3.20** London Today (T) (2096328).

Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (T) (2806752).
3.36 Teddybears (8528674). 3.46 Jumanji (T) (8464684). 4.10 Whizziwig (S) (T) (9500955).
4.40 Mad for it (S) (7112787).

<del>1</del>

The Shirley Temple movie which bankrupited the 1930s megazine Night and Day after a raview by Graham Greene alleged that Temple's performance was that of a sexually ewere adult impersonating a child. It's a fairly nauseating concocition, with Temple becoming the darling of her grandfather's regiment in colonial India (55,579481)

**11.30 Powerhouse** (8752). **12.00** Sesame Street (89400). **12.30** Roots to Success (14884). **1.00** Pet Rescue (R) (S) (1) (44226). **1.30** Roots to Success (86721503).

**8chools:** French Express (8401313). **9.25** Schools at Work (723955). **9.30** Rat.e-tat-tat (8279955). **9.46** Book Box (827810). **10.00** Stage Two Science (9569346). **10.15** At about Us (9479771). **10.30** Channel Hopping (82221706). **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (2660139). **11.00** First Edition VI (6401023). **11.15** Tackling Technology (6597874).

**5.10 Home and Away** (S) (T) (6800918).

Late Lunch with Mel and Sue (95503).

**8**.00

100 Per Cent. The remorseless game show without a host (S) (5226348).

Emmerdate. Steve and Kim go into the witness box, and Graham reveals a dark secret from his past (S) (T) (1226).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather. 7.30pm (S) (T) (824684).

7.00 5 News, including First on Five. Kirsty Young stomps off with the day's top stories (S) (T) (5296955)

Family Affairs. Jamle is found at last, you'll be glad to know. And Nick makes a shocking discovery about Sadle (S) (T) (5137400).

7.30 Champions of the Wild. Wildiffe documentary about the plight of chimpanzees in the Ruwenzori mountains of western Uganda (S) (T) (5133684).

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? In the "phone-a-friend" option, are the friends sitting there surrounded by encyclopedias? (S) (T) (3874).

Police, Camera, Action! The high-speed pursuit of a stolen Porsche, and the US policeman who was caught battering a woman by his own in-car camera (R) (S) (9481).

8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Three generations of Bedfordshire men travel to Loch Ness on a bonding holiday. And if that doesn't sound grim enough, eight Essex lads hit Majorca (7) (7023).

9,00

wourite ER. The first of three it US medical drama, starting Water - the episode apparently their absolute favourite (3961). Opm by "Baby Shower", in which me in undeted by women giving

The Comedy Lab (74/35), 12.00 Board Stupid (R) (33511), 12.30 Football Italia (534530), 3.00 Transworld Sport (R) (36191). 11.30 Strange Luck (5) (9701418). 12.25 Ice Hockey: Buffalo Sabres vs Phoenix Coyotes (5) (46630733).
4.40 Club Class (R) (5) (72542808). 5.05 Move On Up (R) (S) (85529849). 5.30 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (4659135). To 6am. 10.50 Not Melinda's Big Night In. Gail Porter continues to sit in for Big Mel (S) (3451706).

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT



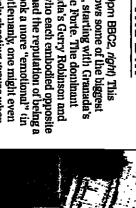
MERSEY BLUES (9pm BBC2. nght) This new observational documentary (that's what "docu-soaps" get called on BBC2) has already made headlines thanks to the general level of incompetence on display (much of it related to underfunding) and the fact that one of the Livetpool police officers filmed here by Jenny Crowther was spectacularly suspended on corruption charges during the series. Crowther spent four years with the Merseyside police, and this first instalment is called "For the Queen" - the police argot for working overtime for nothing. The drug squad seem most affected by the cash squeeze, with often ludicrous results.

Ep. Veil.



# PROF

BLOOD ON THE CARPET (9.50pm BBC2, right) This absorbing new, six-part series follows some of the biggest bourdroom buttles of recent years, starting with Granada's 1995 hostile takenver of Trusthouse Forte. The dominant personalities involved were Granada's Gerry Robinson and Trusthouse Forte's Rocco Forte, who each embodied opposite styles of management. Robinson had the reputation of being a ruthless cost-cutter, while Forte took a more "emotional" (in Robinson's words) approach – gentlemanly, one might even say, especially as Forte was famously shooting grouse when Robinson launched his £4 billion bid.



# ILE OF THE DAY

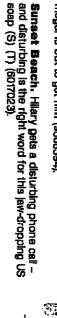
# FILM OF THE DAY

kill this afternoon might like to watch Shirley Temple in Wee Willte Winkie (1.40pm C4) to see whether they agree with Graham Greene (see above). Otherwise, it's a day of intriguing casting, with the coupling of Rosanna Arquette (right) and Anthony Perkins being the most disturbing. There's an added chill to this 1992 thriller in that it was Perkins's last performance before he died of Aids.

He plays a private investigator tracking a notorlous serial killer who seems to have started taking an interest in







(S) (T) (\$005348). **7.30** Milkshakel (S) (4659351). **7.35** (Minzisis House (R) (8729981). **8.00** Havakazoo (R) (S) (1096752). **8.30** Dappledown Farm (R) (S) (1086023). **9.00** Hot Property (R) (T) (2772435). **9.25** Russell Grant's Postcards (4794690). **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (6455597). **10.20** Sunset Beach (S) (T) (2126145). **11.10** Lesza (R) (S) (2933771). **12.00** 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (1006139). **12.30** Femily Affairs (R) (S) (T) (9872866). **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (9004619). **1.30** The Rosearne Show (S) (8871139). **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (8292139). **2.30** Good Afternoon (S) (4557503). ETIM Joe Dancer - the Big Trade (Reza S Badlyl 1981 US). Robert Blake returns as the LA undercover investigator. In this one, he's been framed for running over and killing a teenager. Turns out a movie mogul is out to get him (9568394).

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 13 January 1999